

GADGETS

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WD My Passport
for Mac

Here's
Our Sweet
16th
Volume!

Milestones in Technology

PHP 150



AUG 2015 • VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 1

Home Entertainment | Operating System | Mobile Devices | Cars | Wearables

Celebrating with
ALICIA FAUBEL

REVIEWED

Macbook 2015

Philips 276E

WD My Passport for Mac

Cignus UV85

California Eco

Bike Hensley

Braven Balance

LG 55UF950T

Moto X

2015 Honda Civic 1.8E

2015 Suzuki Grand Vitara AT

Limited Edition

EPSON L220



ISUZU D-MAX X-SERIES



UNLEASH YOUR **X-LIFE!**



4JK1-TC Hi 2.5-liter
Commonrail Direct Injection
Diesel Engine with VGS Turbo



2-DIN 7-inch Touch Screen
Six-way Speaker Entertainment System
with Navigation



4-Star Rating from
ASEAN NCAP



Under Rail Bedliner
and Cargo Spoiler

Leather-vinyl Seats
with Red Stitching



SILKY PEARL WHITE



MAGMA RED



COSMIC BLACK

Photo may vary from actual unit.

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creative boundaries beyond your
smartphone

The freedom to create

With millions of images shared daily on visually driven social platforms, everyday photographers are constantly searching for ways to capture stand-out images, and hone their craft. The Nikon D5500 with its 24.2 megapixels, EXPEED 4 image-processing engine and wide ISO range, gets photographers to capture life on its full glory, in true vibrant colours as you see them. From intuitive handling for optimised usability to experimentation with shooting angles, it is a DSLR designed to immerse and excite fuelling creative expression with a suite of special effects modes and retouch options.





MARIBELLE M. ALBA
PUBLISHER /
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The quintessential gadgets girl who loves all things Mac, red, and blingy. She's also recently taken a liking to Windows phones. What's in her bag? Lots of wires and cords, several external drives, and power banks. Hide your flash drives, though, they disappear around her.

@bellealba



REN ALCANTARA
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Ren likes puppies, long walks in the park, and zombies. His idea of a perfect day would be a long walk in the park, with a puppy, during a zombie apocalypse.

@hisnameisren



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GRAPHIC ARTIST

He likes going out with friends, meeting new ones, playing Marvel and Tekken games at the arcade, listening to music, and playing on his keyboard and guitar.

@benedict_asal



JOSE ALVAREZ
CONTRIBUTOR

You'll never find Jose without a controller in his hand—in fact, the WASD keys on his keyboard have been worn out over the years. Aside from games, he also religiously follows several sports, especially soccer, and always has a joke ready to lighten any mood and put a smile on someone's face.

@awperative



GENEVIEVE MAGLAYA
INTERN

Perpetually in love with watching the sunset, playing with her Siberian Huskies, listening to acoustic music, and eating in general, Gene is on a mission to live every minute of every hour of her life to the fullest.

@bibangtheory



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MOTORING EDITOR

Loves family, food, photography, travel, gadgets, office equipment, notebooks & pens, the beach, roadtrips, cooking, foreign supermarkets, coffee, crazy friends, and food trips in the guise of photo shoots. Not necessarily in that order.

@iamsillymama



MIA CARISSE BARRIENTOS
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A bibliophile who reads fiction, dystopian, chick-lit, to just plainly weird novels in paperback or eBooks. Fascinated with gadgets and speaks fangirl lexicon and gibberish.

@miaissocoollike



LENG DESUASIDO
GRAPHIC ARTIST

She would like an answer to this question: How do you hold a moonbeam in your hand?

@lengdesuasido



JONAH MENDOZA
CONTRIBUTOR

Binge-watching series is to blame for her nocturnal habit. She loves the outdoors so much but her first love will be the ocean. On vacations, you will definitely spot her swimming in the sea without a single fear even though she can't reach the bottom anymore.

@jonahmendoza



This month marks the opening of another volume of Gadgets Magazine. We've been around a while now, and we've seen a lot of tech come and go. It's just the nature of the industry, and really what makes it tick. This month in *Gadgets*, we take a look at what has come before, examine what is now, and take a quick peek at what might come next. Since it's our birthday, we also take a little time to celebrate another year of bringing you the latest, most interesting pieces of technology. Helping us get everyone in a festive mood is the lovely Alicia Faubel at the wonderful 71 Gramercy. Before you jump into this issue, allow us to thank you, dear reader, for your continuing support and interest. It's because of you folks we get to do this for a living. For now, let us say "Thank you" with the first of Volume 16 of Gadgets Magazine!

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Websites, anything and everything Apple, power tools and unusual gadgets excite her. She also loves to travel, go on food trips, and try out all the new things.

@presy1121



CHRIS NOEL HIDALGO
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I like boxes.

@cnnhidalgo



EM LUZ
GRAPHIC ARTIST

"Ughguughhhghghhhgh
aguhwwggghhhraaaaaahhhg
wrrhw huurh aarraggghuuuhw!"

@emnluz



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2nd Row 3rd Row

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7-seater MUV
for a journey of Smiles.



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AUGUST 2015
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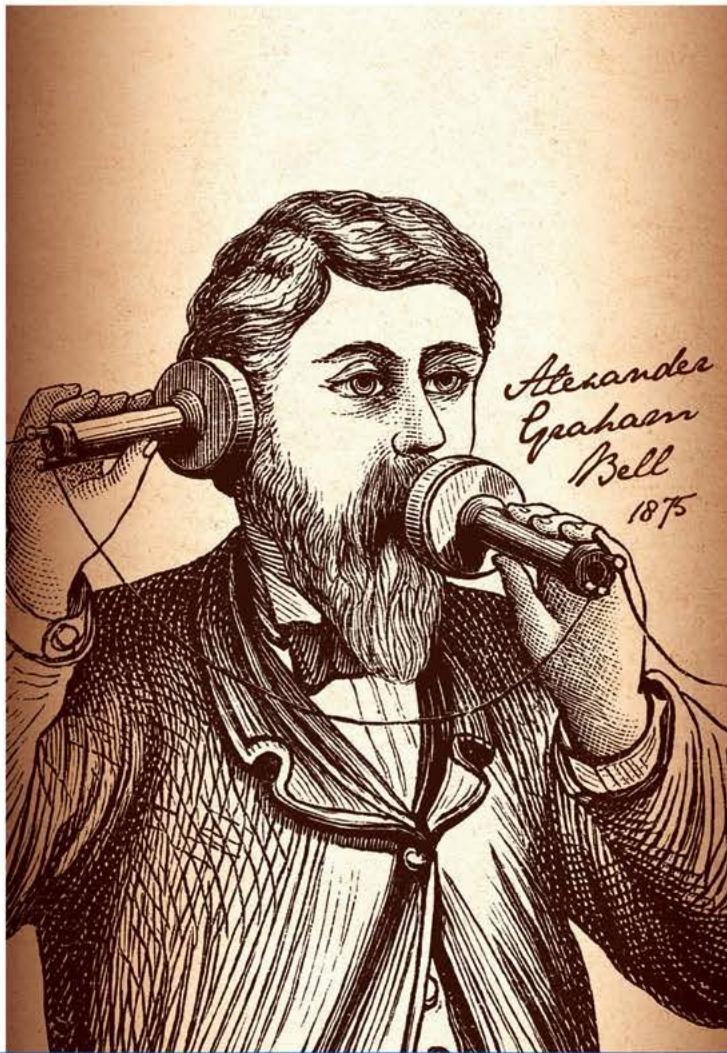
Yesterday's hits making international waves today.



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APPLE MUSIC

Music's getting the premium makeover.



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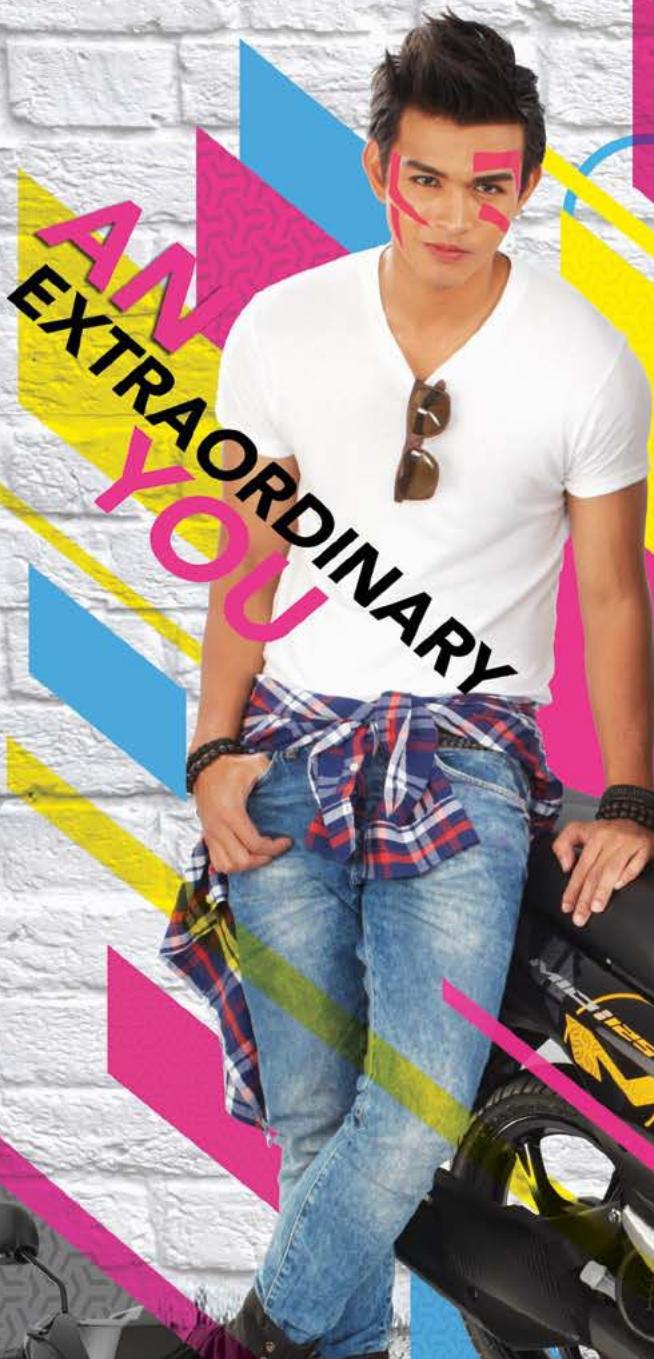
SUPER MARIO BROS.

Everyone's favorite plumber, and Luigi.

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BITS & BYTES

Tech news that you may have missed.



www.yamaha-motor.com.ph



WD My Passport for Mac 2TB ▲

Portable Hard Drive

Limited storage space is often dreaded among owners of portable workhorses like laptops. Sure you can always purchase any external hard drive, but what if you own a Mac device and no matter what you do, it just wouldn't accept your EHD purchase? This is where the WD My Passport for Mac shines. This device isn't just formatted specifically for Mac devices, it also complements the sleek motif of your Mac making for a powerful pair that's aesthetically congruent. Right out of the box, the compact chassis of the My Passport gives you a USB 3.0 Interface for fast transfer speeds, an HFS+ format for guaranteed compatibility with Mac OSes, and 2TB of storage space for all your multimedia whims. For Mac users looking for capacity and ease of use, the WD My Passport offers terrific value for your hard-earned buck.



◀ **Lenovo Yoga 300** Hybrid Laptop

The Lenovo Yoga 300 is a laptop that will literally bend over backwards for you. The clamshell features a hinge that allows 360-degree rotation so you can use it regularly for work, tented up for hands-free use, or folded flat for a mobile tablet. The Yoga 300 features an Intel Pentium N3540 quad-core processor clocked at 2.16GHz, 4GB of RAM, an 11.6-inch HD touchscreen LED display, and a 2-cell battery for extreme productivity. It also has various storage options ranging from a 64GB eMMC, 1TB HDD, or 500GB SSHD, as well as Dolby Home Theater stereo speakers for all your multimedia needs.

PHP 22,995

Lenovo Yoga 500 ▶

Hybrid Laptop

Is it a laptop? A tablet? A stand? Or a tent? The Lenovo Yoga 500 is all that—thanks to its 360-degree folding form factor—and a lot more. It comes in both 15.6- or 14-inch variants, each with Full-HD IPS touchscreen displays; and Intel Core i7-5550U dual-core processor clocked at 2.4GHz, Intel HD Graphics 5500, 8GB of DDR3L RAM, Nvidia GeForce 940M 2GB GPU, and either a 1TB HHD or 1TB SSHD. Various ports, jacks, and the Wi-Fi 802.11 b/g/n standard are also present, as well as a 45WHR battery so you can work on-the-go in whatever position you fancy.

PHP 28,495



Lenovo Ideapad 100 ▶

Laptop

If you want an affordable daily driver with just enough spunk to help you with lightweight tasks such as web browsing, document creation, and multimedia viewing, then the Ideapad 100's an awesome choice. It comes in either a 15.6- or 14-inch form factor, both with a 1366x768 HD TN LCD screen, 2.16GHz Intel Atom N3540 processor, Intel HD Graphics, 4GB of DDR3L RAM, 500GB storage, Wi-Fi 802.11 b/g/n and Bluetooth 4.0 connectivity, HDMI and USB ports, audio combo jack, 4-in-1 SD card slot, 1.5W speakers, and a 24Whr battery. Though pretty basic, the Ideapad 100 gets the job done without robbing you of your money.

PHP 14,495



◀ Lenovo Z51

Laptop

When it comes to on-the-go productivity, a laptop with all the abilities of a proper tower can't be beat. The Lenovo Z51 carries all the things you'd expect from a bulky desktop in a package measuring only 384 x 264.9 x 24.6mm. At its heart is a fifth generation Intel Core i7 processor paired with an AMD Radeon R9-M375 GPU and 16GB of DDR3L RAM for blazing-fast performance whatever you throw at it. It also has 1TB of storage, Bluetooth and Wi-Fi connectivity, various audio-visual jacks, input ports, an HD webcam, and JBL Stereo Speakers with Dolby DS 1.0 Home Theater completing the mobile workstation experience.

PHP 42,995

Lenovo recommends Windows.

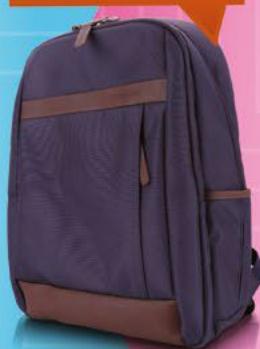
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#1 PC VENDOR
WORLDWIDE
IN TERMS OF UNIT SHIPMENTS IN Q4 2014
Source: IDC Worldwide PC Tracker, Q4 2014.

Lenovo™

Huawei Honor 7►

Smartphone

The Huawei Honor 7 seeks to bring you, well, honor, with its glorious frame and equally glorious specs. Available in 16GB and 64GB variants, this LTE-enabled smartphone sports a 5.2-inch Full HD display with 423ppi, an 8MP f/2.4 aperture front camera, and a 21MP Sony IMX230 main snapper. It also packs an octa-core Kirin 930 processor (four at 2.2GHz and four at 1.5GHz), Mali T628 GPU, 3GB RAM, 3100mAh power pack, NFC, dual-band Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.1, and a fingerprint sensor under the main camera. Power and beauty. What more could you want?



Huawei TalkBand B2▼

Activity Tracker

The Huawei TalkBand B2 may look like your typical smartwatch, but it's also a full-fledged activity tracker. Its rectangular face is of the PMOLED touchscreen type, and is IP57 certified making it dust- and water-resistant up to one meter. Powering it is a 95mAh battery that is rated for up to six days of continuous use and 14 days of standby on a single charge. It boasts a calorie and step counter, fitness and sleep monitoring, as well as a phone tracker feature, allowing you a closer look at your current lifestyle. Moreover, the watch face detaches from the body and functions as a Bluetooth in-ear headset for utmost convenience.

PHP 6,990 (Black and white rubber models)
PHP 7,990 (Gold and leather model)



Aqua Coton ▶ Handy Washer

We all have been in a situation where we go out for lunch, order a saucy dish, and as we go for the last bite, salsa drips down the front of our pastel-colored top. What we would normally do in this messy situation is to dab the stain with a wet napkin, making the unsightly mess even worse. Aqua, a subsidiary brand of Haier, has the solution to this dilemma. The Aqua Coton is a lightweight cologne-bottle-sized, AAA battery-operated, stain remover you can easily tote around. This handy yet powerful washer pumps a small amount of water over the fabric and thoroughly agitates it at 700 beats a minute with its nozzle, removing stains in as quick as 30 seconds. Just apply the cleaning solution of your choice on a paper towel or directly to the fabric, direct the device's nozzle to the area that needs cleaning, and the Coton will work its magic. Whether you use it at home or for when you need a quick touch-up on the go, the Coton has you covered.



◀ Promate 240 Indoor Power Station

Typhoons that enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) often bring with them strong winds that cause power outages, which in turn wreak havoc across the nation. Launched just in time for the rainy season, the Promate 240 is an on-the-go portable generator that is ideal for both recreational and residential use. This indoor power station is designed to offer a convenient and reliable source of back-up power in the event of power outages at home or at work. This high-capacity compact power generator comes packed with a 24Ah sealed lead acid battery which guarantees you hours of power. It can charge and power up select appliances, mobile phones, and other electronic devices via its three USB ports. It also has a duplex 400-watt outlet that allows you to directly plug appliances, and a battery cable port that lets you jumpstart a car or connect the power station to a battery for additional uptime. It also sports an LED display on which you can monitor the status of the generator, from the power output to the battery voltage.

PHP 9,999



Braven 770 ▾ Bluetooth Speaker

This portable and splash-proof speaker is ideal for those who are always on the move, but want to enjoy great music just the same. Beautifully crafted from aircraft grade aluminum and sporting a sophisticated all-black finish, this speaker easily fits in your luggage and allows you to conveniently take and make calls with its built-in noise canceling feature. This fully loaded speaker is also enhanced with aptX technology for up to 12 hours of crisp, high definition audio while also doubling as a powerbank for your other toys.

PHP 6,750



◀ Braven 805 Bluetooth Speaker

The colorful Braven 805 Bluetooth speaker is designed as an ideal home companion as it packs the power to rock any room. Offered in nine striking colors, the Braven 805 can instantly add a dash of life and color in magenta, orange, and red or simply blend into a bookshelf with its neutral white, gray, and black hues. This sleek device also includes speakerphone capability with an integrated noise-canceling microphone and the ability to charge USB devices thanks to its whopping 4400mAh battery. It also comes with TrueWireless technology for pairing with another Braven 805, 850, 855s, 1100, and BRV-HD speaker for left and right channel stereo sound.

PHP 9,950



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* Digital TV signal is dependent on area and network conditions



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Braven Balance ▾

Bluetooth Speaker

This Braven speaker strikes the perfect balance between portability and ground-shaking sound output with its bass optimization technology and ultra-thin design. Perfect for bringing with you during workouts, the Braven Balance combines a sleek, low-profile design with outstanding sound quality. This speaker comes with Braven's Balance Technology, their proprietary bass optimization system which allows the device to deliver deep, rich sound even at lower volumes. It also features an anti-slip exterior so you can easily transport it even after sweating out at the gym. Its IPX7 waterproof rating, on the other hand, makes it capable of surviving accidental spills or drops. The Balance is available in black, lime, gray, red/gray, purple/gray, and orange/gray.

PHP 5,850

Braven BRV-PRO ▾

Portable Speaker

The BRV-PRO is the world's first modular, ultra-rugged Bluetooth speaker designed for the most daring outdoor enthusiasts. This speaker is built like a tank, making it tough enough to withstand even the harshest forces of nature while at the same time blasting HD music wherever you are. Not only does it deliver HD sound, but it also is extra robust thanks to an IPX7 waterproof design reinforced with aircraft-grade aluminum. The BRV-PRO is capable of up to 15 hours of music playback with its built-in 2200mAh battery that doubles as a power bank for powering up smartphones and other USB devices. To further sweeten the deal, the BRV-PRO ecosystem offers various rugged accessories such as a BRV 3800mAh battery pack, BRV Solar Panel for virtually endless music and power, BRV Stacking Plate for multiple sound and power, BRV Glowing Deck for illumination during nights out, and a BRV Action Mount compatible with GoPro mounting accessories for music listening just about anywhere. It is available in silver, cyan, and gray.

PHP 6,750



Braven Lux ▶ Bluetooth Speaker

The limited edition Braven Lux is an elegant speaker that makes for the perfect fashion accessory. Definitely a standout among Bluetooth speakers, the Lux features an intricately detailed grille and showcases a unique pattern in metallic colors, pearl, gold, and iridescent purple. This water-resistant, lightweight speaker easily connects with any Bluetooth-enabled device and can be paired with another Lux or Braven 7-Series speaker for an amplified music-listening experience. It also features a built-in noise-cancelling speakerphone and mic for taking calls anytime. You'll surely turn heads with the Lux by your side.

PHP 4,950



◀ Dell Latitude 12 Rugged Tablet

Heat? This tablet can take it. Cold? No problem. Falls? Easy peasy. Spills, mud, dust, and sand? Dell's ruggedized Latitude 12 tablet will gladly hop around and swim in the world's worst conditions thanks to its extremely tough build. It's equipped with an 11.6-inch HD Display, fifth generation Intel Core M processor, 8GB RAM, 512GB SSD, fourth gen QuadCool thermal management, mobile broadband, data protection, and two swappable batteries for a total of 12 hours running time. It runs on the Windows 8.1 operating system and will gladly survive a fall out of one too.



◀ CamelBak K.U.D.U. 12 Enduro Pack

With the kind of beating bags receive from daily commutes and extreme adventures, their lifespans are generally cut short. CamelBak presents just their answer to your adventure woes with the K.U.D.U. 12. Making sure your investment lasts, this pack is built for the enduro racer looking for a lightweight combination of protection and cargo space. Its flexible back protector panel absorbs over 94-percent of impact in the event of a crash, and is reinforced to handle multiple blows. This Impact Protector technology is made of flexible, lightweight foam that moves with your body, giving you the protection you need without leaving you stiff. With tough terrain a given in your adventure, the K.U.D.U.'s wide waist belt and dual sternum straps keep the pack positioned securely. The K.U.D.U. can help you go the distance between stages miles apart with three liters of hydration and room for stowing armor plus a full face helmet. If the weather turns, there's an integrated rain cover you can pop out to protect your gear. For aggressive descents, you also have a secure half-shell helmet carry while wearing your full face. CamelBak has also thrown in a bike tool organizer roll that fits into a cargo space, so you can easily grab your tools and get working.

PHP 7,770

CamelBak Spire 22 ▶

Outdoor Pack

The Spire 22 is a female-specific outdoor pack that is light, comfortable, and great for all-day expeditions. Giving you stability during hikes or walking through city streets, the pack includes a lumbar hydration reservoir that transfers weight to the waist, near the hips to maximize comfort. The pack has suspended mesh back panels which keep your back cool and ventilated no matter how long or rugged your journey is. Made especially for women, the Spire is engineered with an S-curved harness keeping the pack snug and close to your body, and a sternum strap that sits comfortably across your chest. Apart from these ergonomic features, the Spire also comes with CamelBak native features such as a Big Bite Valve, Hydroguard technology, PureFlow tube for the reservoir, and ultra-light, tough materials. Need a pack for your next hiking trip? The Spire might just be the gear for you.

PHP 7,290



MOUNTAIN BIKE PROTECTION

**K.U.D.U.™ IMPACT™ PROTECTOR
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K.U.D.U.™ COLLECTION

THE K.U.D.U.™ COLLECTION OFFERS THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION FOR THE ENDURO ATHLETE WHO IS LOOKING FOR THE COMBINATION OF BACK PROTECTION, CARGO CAPACITY AND HYDRATION ALL IN A STABLE AND SECURE PACK.



Epson L310 ▶

Printer

The Epson L310 is for those looking for a low-cost solution to high-quality prints. It features a high-capacity ink tank taking in colors cyan, magenta, yellow, and black; Micro Piezo print head for print resolutions up to 5760 x 1440 DPI, and hassle-free startup and maintenance for even greater productivity. The tanks can easily be refilled with genuine Epson ink bottles, each guaranteeing up to 6,500 pages in color and 4,000 pages in black. For your peace of mind, the L310 is protected by a 12-month or 30,000-page warranty, whichever comes first.

PHP 7,495



◀ Epson L565

Multi-function Center

Printers aren't normally exciting, but when it arrives with features such as those in Epson's L565, we can't help but want to print, scan, copy, and fax anything and everything. Epson's latest document solution features an on-demand Piezo electric inkjet print head capable of pushing 5760 x 1440 DPI outputs, an easy refill ink tank, 2400 x 1200 DPI scanner, 100-sheet paper tray, and print speeds up to 9.2 and 4.5 pages per minute for monochrome and color jobs, respectively. It also has built-in Wi-Fi so you can use Apple AirPrint and Google Cloud Print to print straight from your mobile device. Paperwork, here we come!

PHP 13,995



Epson L220 ▲ Multi-function Center

There's something about the tactile feel of paper that still keeps it in the running even in today's increasingly digital world. If you're one of those who'd rather have ink on paper but don't want to break the bank doing so, take a look at the Epson L220. It sports Epson's original InkTank system for easy, spill-free refills that manage over 10,000 pages before everything goes dry; print speeds up to 27ppm for black and white documents; 5760dpi outputs; one touch scan and copy; and Epson's one year or 15,000-pages warranty. The L220 also boasts a space-saving design so you can put it just about anywhere you need paperwork done and done well.

PHP 7,595



◀ Asus Strix GTX 980 Ti Graphics Card

Let your framerate soar high with the Asus Strix GTX 980 Ti gaming graphics card. It boasts Nvidia's latest 980 Ti GPU paired with 6GB of GDDR5 memory, with the former humming at 1216MHz out of the box. The powerhouse is cooled by Direct CU III technology which features triple wing-blade fans and two 10mm direct contact heat pipes for 30-percent cooler, and three times quieter performance. The Strix GTX 980 Ti is also built from the ground up using Super Alloy Power II components for maximum durability and longevity. Those, along with various Asus features such as GPU Tweak II and XSplit Gamecaster, make this card the bane of console peasants.

PHP 40,230



Epson EB-U32 ▾

Projector

Epson knows that to stay number one, they're going to have to follow up each and every release with even better performing products. The EB-U32 builds on the success of its predecessors with its 3200lm white and color light output, Epson's proprietary 3LCD technology, 1.38 (Wide) to 1.68 (Tele) throw ratio, 200W UHE projection lamp with up to 10,000 hours lifespan, and WUXGA 1920x1200 resolution for high-resolution images that are crisp and distortion-free. It also arrives with built-in Wi-Fi connectivity, HDMI, VGA, and USB ports for seamless connectivity across a variety of sources.

PHP 39,190



Epson EB-X04 ▾

Projector

Epson's EB-X04 is proof that we have indeed come a long way from the transparency-run overhead projectors of years past. Epson's latest projection system parades an XGA 1024 x 768 native resolution courtesy of its patented 3LCD technology that allows great color way while delivering three times brighter and three times wider gamut. The built-in lamp is able to last up to 10,000 hours in eco-mode which not only reduces electronic waste but also lessens the device's downtime. There are also HDMI, VGA, RCA, and USB inputs on its back so you can keep the show going from a variety of sources.

PHP 26,490



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Prestigio Multiphone 5508 Duo ▶ Smartphone

It's always refreshing to see new brands duke it out in the saturated smartphone market. They offer interesting features that deserve the buyer's attention. Prestigio, a new player in the local smartphone market, presents just that in the Multiphone 5508 Duo. This smartphone delivers outstanding performance and efficiency thanks to a best-in-class octa-core processor located right in the heart of the device. Fitted in this 5-inch premium looking phone are 13MP rear and 5MP front snappers, IPS OGS display overlaid with tough DragonTrail glass, 1GB RAM, 16GB of onboard memory, and dual-SIM slots. It also runs on Android KitKat and boasts a 2300mAh power pack to last you hours of entertainment and connectivity on the go.



◀ Prestigio Multiphone 8500 Duo Smartphone

If you've always wanted to try the mobile Windows experience but haven't found a device that sweeps you off your feet, then this might be it. Prestigio's Multiphone 8500 duo struts the Windows Phone 8.1 OS out of the box for the same user experience you have on your desktop. Inside its body is a 1.2GHz Qualcomm quad-core processor, 1GB RAM, 8GB internal storage expandable via microSD, 2000mAh battery, 8MP and 2MP shooters, Bluetooth and Wi-Fi modules, and dual SIM capability. Meanwhile, the action is displayed on a clear 5-inch HD IPS screen protected by Gorilla Glass 2. All that prestige rests on a textured shell available in black and white.

PHP 9,699



Xiaomi Mi 4i ▶

Smartphone

Xiaomi's breaking the game again, this time with the newest Mi 4i. It packs a flagship-worthy résumé which includes a 5-inch 1080p Full HD screen protected with Corning Concore Glass, 64-bit Qualcomm Snapdragon 615 octa-core processor clocked at 1.7GHz, 2GB LPDDR3 RAM, 16GB flash memory, 13MP and 5MP cameras, dual SIM and dual LTE capability, and a 3120mAh power pack. The Mi 4i also runs the latest Android 5.0 Lollipop OS with the simply impressive MIUI 6 overlay. The specs aren't the best part about this phone though; that accolade belongs to its unbelievably low price tag that will surely see it flying off the shelves faster than previous Mi phones. Take 'em to school, Xiaomi.

PHP 9,799



Oppo Joy 3 ▲

Smartphone

The Oppo Joy 3 is a very simple yet stylish phone, but don't let its looks fool you. Underneath its dainty exterior which comes in either white or gray is a MediaTek MT6582 quad-core processor clocked at 1.3GHz, 1GB RAM, Mali-400MP2 GPU, 4GB of internal storage, 2000mAh removable battery, 5MP and 2MP shooters both with f/2.4 aperture, and 4.5-inch IPS TFT display. Its Android 4.4 KitKat OS is overlaid with the surprisingly well-done ColorOS 2.0 user interface so actually putting the phone to work provides an experience few custom UIs can match. For the shutterbugs out there, Oppo fitted the Joy 3's camera app with options such as GIF Capture, Beautify, Audio Photo, and Double Exposure for the best looking snaps you'd just have to share with others.

PHP 6,490



Razer Blade (2015) ▾

Laptop

Boldly go where no gamer has gone before with Razer's newest gaming laptop, the Blade. All the action is displayed on a gorgeous 14-inch IGZO QHD multi-touch display with LED backlight for immersive visuals; while an Nvidia GeForce GTX 970M with 3GB of GDDR5 video buffer along with a quad-core Intel Core i7 4720HQ processor clocked at 2.6GHz handle all the graphical and computing workload that you throw at this sleek machine. For memory, it has a 16GB dual-channel RAM and 256GB SSD on a SATA M.2 interface for blazing fast boot and app load times. The Blade also packs a 70Wh battery in its 2.03kg body so you can confidently game on the go without being bogged down by sheer weight.

PHP 134,999

Samsung Galaxy Tab A ▾

Tablet

More portable than a laptop yet more productive than a smartphone—that's the Galaxy Tab A. Coming in at a light 0.44kg, the Galaxy Tab A packs quite a wallop with its 1.2GHz Qualcomm APQ 8016 quad-core processor, 1.5GB RAM, 16GB expandable flash storage, 5MP and 2MP back and front cameras, 6000mAh battery capacity, and Android 5.0 Lollipop operating system. It's fronted by a 9.7-inch 1024 x 768 main display perfect for multitaskers and productivity nuts. There's also a host of features including Samsung SideSync 3.0, Quick Connect, Multi Window, Kids Mode, Multi User Mode, and Ultra Power Saving Mode to sate all your techie needs. Got some creative projects that need seeing to? This tab gives you all the S Pen functions you have on the Note series of devices, so let your imagination run wild.





165 cm (65")

Full HD LED TV
Dual Core
DVB-T/T2



65PFT6909

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Brilliance

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WQHD (3440 x 1440)



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GoPro Hero 4 Session ▾

Action Camera

The smallest GoPro yet, the Hero 4 Session is waterproof all on its own, removing the need for a separate waterproof case, up to 10 meters. A meager 4.09 x 2.75 x 9.68 inches large, the Session is all of 475 grams, and is so small and light, you'll absolutely forget it is there. Capable of recording footage up to 1440p, and 8MP stills, the Session also packs dual microphones for reduced wind noise, and better sound quality. A convenient single-button control gives you access to all the session's functions, and Wi-Fi plus Bluetooth connectivity lets you control the camera right from your smartphone, for an easy, painless action camera experience.

PHP 20,990

Brooks Kaleidoscope Collection ▾

Running Shoes

Sophisticated and sporty come together as one in the new Brooks Kaleidoscope Collection. A distinct pattern and vibrant colors await sports enthusiasts with four new shoes: Men's and Women's Adrenaline GTS 15 and Men's and Women's Ghost 7. Quality and performance is not compromised with its style. You can have it all: speed, power, and style, with the Kaleidoscope Collection from Brooks.

PHP 6,295 to 6,995



Motorola Moto X ▶

Smartphone

Motorola is back, and we couldn't be gladder. With their return, they bring the new, awesome Moto X. The second iteration of the X has a 5.2-inch AMOLED screen behind Gorilla Glass 3, a 2.5GHz quad-core processor, and 2GB of RAM. 16GB of storage, with microSD expandability, means you have more than enough room for all the beautiful photos and 4K videos you'll be taking with the phone's 13MP main camera. Need data? No problem. The second gen Moto X has LTE connectivity, so you can make the most of your telco's blazing-fast mobile data connection. This is all powered by a 2300mAh battery for all-day performance, and Android Lollipop out of the box for the latest and the best mobile computing experience.

PHP 16,999



◀ Motorola Moto G

Smartphone

Possibly the most eagerly awaited device from the return of Motorola in the Philippines is the Moto G. The well-received Android smartphone will be packing a Snapdragon 400 chipset, a quad-core 1.2GHz processor, and 1GB of RAM. Those who are concerned with the G's photography chops needn't worry, as it has an 8MP, auto focus camera, so you get the perfect shot each and every time, all viewable on its beautiful 5-inch HD screen, protected by Gorilla Glass 3. With 8 or 16GB of storage, plus microSD support up to 128GB, you can be sure you'll have more than enough room for all your photos, videos, pictures, and other multimedia files right in your pocket.

PHP 8,499

Motorola Moto E ▶

Smartphone

Those looking for a great entry level smartphone may no longer need to keep searching. Motorola's return to the market brings with it the Moto E. This little dual-SIM powerhouse has a roomy 4.5-inch screen, 5MP snapper, and a huge 2390mAh battery for all-day performance. It also comes with LTE connectivity, which is more than others in its segment can say, and is protected by Corning Gorilla Glass 3, so you don't have to lose sleep wondering if your phone is safe from scratches and cracks. With 1GB of RAM, and a Snapdragon 410 chipset, plus a 1.2GHz quad-core processor, you're assured of zippy performance, even when you're going heavy on the apps.

PHP 6,999



Meizu MX5 ▼

Smartphone

One of the most quietly awaited mobile phones has finally landed on Philippine shores. The Meizu MX5, announced just last month, is here. This Android phone has a 5.5 inch, full HD screen, tips the scales at a scant 149 grams, and is a wafer-thin 7.6mm. Don't let the numbers fool you though. This beauty packs some beastly specs. 3GB of RAM, a Mediatek MT6795 chipset, and an octa-core processor running at 2.2GHz all make for a phone that's got the muscle to push all your tasks and then some. Dual-SIM and LTE connectivity round this powerhouse out nicely, and a 20.7-megapixel main camera gives even the most selfie-obsessed techie everything they could ever want.

PHP 16,999 (16GB)



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**COMING SOON IN THE PHILIPPINES
AUGUST 2015**



◀ Hitachi Big French Refrigerator

Keep your food clean and fresh with the Big French refrigerator from Hitachi. It features Inverter Control and Dual Fan Cooling Technologies to keep the interior chilly at all times while optimizing power usage to help with your electricity bill. Meanwhile, a Nano Titanium Filter and Moldproof Door Gasket helps keep odor and bacteria at bay to keep your food as delectable as when you first bought them. It has three compartments—the freezer, refrigerator, and vegetable—each with dedicated cooling mechanisms backed up by various knickknacks such as energy saving LED lights, a tempered glass shelf, ice tray, and child lock to ensure your culinary dreams match up with reality.



Hitachi Side by Side Luxury ▶ Refrigerator

Hitachi's Side by Side Luxury refrigerator ensures that your food is kept clean, fresh, and ready every time you open its doors. It boasts Hitachi's high power Inverter Control and Dual Fan Cooling features ensuring a steady supply of cold air while optimizing the chilling process. The Luxury fridge also showcases new vacuum insulation panels to further keep the cold in and the heat out; as well as an Eco Monitoring Sensor that adjusts power consumption when it is left alone for long periods. Auto Door, Touch Screen Controller, LED Lights, Nano Titanium Filter, and plenty of storage space are also on hand to satisfy even the worst case of the munchies.

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AUGUST 2015



LG 55UF950T

Reviewed by Maribelle Alba

LG debuted its ColorPrime flagship range of Super UHD TVs at CES 2015 earlier this year. In time for its introduction to the Philippine market, we got to try out the 55-inch model at the GadgetsLab. Here's how it fared.

DESIGN ★★★★☆

The LG 55UF950T is a beautifully designed, ultra-slim 4K Ultra-HD TV. The large 55-inch display extends almost edge-to-edge with minimized bezels to deliver a cinematic viewing experience. It floats atop a cleverly-designed curving "auditorium" stand that actually serves as a sound-booster.

There are no visible buttons in front, just a tiny red LED light that shows you it's on standby mode. At the rear and on the left side are the various connectivity interfaces for the RF antenna, AV-in, optical digital audio out, LAN port, two USB ports, and four HDMI ports.

The usual RCA/component sockets have been replaced with a single AV-in port, and LG thoughtfully included an AV-in adaptor so you can easily plug in the RCA plugs from the cable TV box (or some other component).

The 55UF950T comes with a Magic Remote, which you operate like a game controller by pointing, scrolling, and clicking at the on-screen options.

HARDWARE ★★★★☆

LG packed the latest technology into its current flagship Super UHD TV range. At the top of the list is, of course, its ColorPrime nano-spectrum technology that delivers a wider spectrum of colors for more realistic hues. The 4K Ultra HD screen packs a 3840 x 2160p resolution for highly detailed images. A 4K Upscaler enhances the quality of ordinary videos for richer, more precise viewing. It also features an HEVC decoder that delivers crystal clear and blur-free images at 60fps.

LG tapped Harman/Kardon for the sound design for an equally premium audio experience. The hidden down-firing speakers are reflected and boosted by the functional auditorium stand, which reflects the sound towards the viewer, to make it seem like you are actually sitting at an auditorium.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★☆

The webOS interface is intuitive and simple. During

set-up, Bean Bird, an animated assistant, walks you through the configuration process by asking you a series of questions so you can easily and quickly set up your cable connection as well as internet access. With that out of the way, webOS then gives you access to a launcher which allows you to navigate through all available options, such as apps, connected peripherals, etc., without having to leave your current screen.

In theory, you can pair the remote to operate the cable set-top box, but I wasn't able to do this as SkyCable wasn't on the list of providers and I didn't know the brand of my digibox. I thought this was a pity, as being able to control both the TV and the cable digibox from a single remote would have been a very welcome convenience.

As promised, the viewing experience on the LG 55UF950T was a wonderful, cinematic experience, particularly for HD content. In my usual nose-to-the-screen test for video quality, individual pixels were barely noticeable.

It had a number of built-in 3D clips as well, which showcased the outstanding quality of 4K 3D+. Images literally jumped out of the screen for a truly immersive experience.

While a 4K Upscaler is supposed to enhance ordinary broadcasts to UHD quality, the step up from standard definition analog TV channels may be too much of a leap. Sadly, the large screen showed up the flaws of lower video quality of most local TV stations.

Sound quality is another area where the 55UF950T shines, as is to be expected from the Harman/Kardon cachet. Without visible speakers, you get crisp, clear audio with six settings to choose from, plus sound effects options for clear voice, virtual surround, and 3D sound zooming.

VALUE ★★★★☆

Retailing at around PHP 199,990 (but offered on Lazada for PHP 168,705), this 55-incher is premium-priced compared to similar-sized LED TVs in the market, but not so prohibitively as to discourage determined buyers who appreciate its superior technology. My only caveat is that TV prices drop so



SPECIFICATIONS:

Display: Super UHD TV; 3840 x 2160p
Video: Tru 4K Engine Pro
Sound: Designed by Harman/Kardon
Processor: WebOS
Features: Time Machine
Connectivity: Head phone jack, RF antenna, AV-in, HDMI MHL, optical audio out, USB-in, LAN
Dimensions: 1236 x 773 x 240mm (with stand)
Weight: 22.2kg (with stand)

What's Hot:

- Beautifully-detailed, life-like colors
- Great sound
- Ultra slim design
- Simple WebOS

What's Not:

- Premium price

fast that perhaps if you wait a few months until the Christmas shopping season, or for the post-holiday sales early next year, you might be able to bring this home at a much lower price.

Over the long-term, the investment would not be wasted as LG has put in the latest technology in this smart TV, which can be upgraded as new software updates are rolled out. Also, its beautiful, ultra-slim design is expected to keep its appeal for years to come.

A 24-month warranty on both labor and parts gives you the added assurance of worry-free manufacturer's support in case of any unforeseen problems.

BOTTOMLINE

Takes 4K UHD to a new level. Plus, it's just about the right size for that cinematic viewing experience in the comfort of your home.

Philips 276E

Reviewed by Chris Noel Hidalgo

As a writer, I stare at my screen for hours on end, researching, procrastinating, writing, and procrastinating, on my office laptop. As you can tell, my workhorse's screen is nothing to be excited about. Good thing the Philips 276E is. I had it as my driver for a few days and here are my thoughts.

DESIGN ★★★★★

The Philips 276E looks really premium and at first glance reminded me of a famous fruit company. Our review unit was clad in white, with a pretty hefty bronze metallic stand. The front is all bare save for the Philips insignia centered on the bottom frame. On the bottom edge are touch-enabled controls for power, on-screen display menu, display format, signal input source, and SmartImage Lite which we'll talk about in a bit.

Flip the unit around and you'll be greeted by the corrugated back, on the bottom part of which are the input ports for your HDMI/MHL, dual link DVI-D, VGA, HDMI audio output, and power brick. On the far right of the array is a Kensington anti-theft lock eyelet. Wrapping everything up is the giant 27-inch IPS-ADS LCD screen. Even with all the pixels that need powering, the 276E manages to remain slim and elegant. While I would have preferred the monitor and stand to be of one color, the entire package was right at home on my (messy) office desk.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

The Philips 276E's screen is an impressive, immersive affair with a 16:9 aspect ratio, a 1920 x 1080 resolution, and a 60Hz screen refresh rate. It also has a fairly okay response time of 14ms and 1000:1 contrast ratio. The monitor itself is pitched at 178-degrees while the stand is tilted -5/20-degrees. Though the display is physically gorgeous, there's quite a lot of bezel surrounding it.

The whole display, in all its 640 x 471 x 235mm glory is built quite well and even though the stalk of the metal stand seems quite thin, it's able to sufficiently hold the admittedly heavy display without any give.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★☆

Before I got my hands on this monitor, I always thought that big computer monitors were a fad. You shouldn't really need anything bigger than 20 inches right? Well, that conviction was thrown right out the window into a blazing bonfire after I set up the Philips 276E.



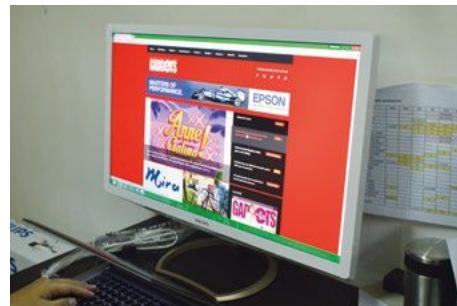
Color outputs were excellent and vibrant, and contrast ratios were pleasing enough that black was almost completely black. Browsing websites as well as typing documents with font as small as 8-points didn't strain my eye even though I was at it for quite some time. Binge-watching movies was, of course, great and the IPS panel provided great viewing angles, whether from the extreme left or right pitches, or dead center.

The experience is improved by Philips' SmartImage Lite feature which adjusts the display's brightness, contrast, color, and sharpness based on specified presets. In theory, it should give you an optimized viewing experience depending on the media you're currently viewing. In practice, it only took a couple of menu presses to tune down the blinding white lights while browsing the web, increase text sharpness while reading documents, and enhance contrast ratio while playing video games and movies. If my eyes had thumbs, they will be upping them all over this feature.

I do have two grumbles though. First, the screen is sunk fairly deeply into the thick bezels surrounding it. Shame, though; image outputs could have stood out even more if it was equally as tall as its border, or if the bezels were made just a bit thinner. Second, the response time is a bit high so you'll have just the slightest hint of input lag when playing games. Not that it's branded as a gaming monitor—it is designed for productivity after all.

VALUE ★★★★☆

Is a gargantuan monitor necessary for office productivity or multimedia experience? No. Does it improve the overall aspect of computing, though? The answer's a big, resounding yes. There's nothing like having enough screen real estate to have two windows open at the same time—a browser being used for research and a word processor for taking down notes—side by side. There's also no compare to having your own personal theatre screen that's engaging and drool-worthy. Too bad about that bezel though.



SPECIFICATIONS:

LCD panel type: IPS-ADS LCD
Backlight type: W-LED system
Panel Size: 27-inch
Aspect ratio: 16:9
Optimum resolution: 1920 x 1080 at 60Hz
Response time: 14ms
Signal Input: HDMI/MHL, VGA, dual link DVI-D
Dimensions: 640 x 471 x 235mm
Weight: 5.33kg

What's Hot:

- Crisp, Full HD resolution
- Looks really beautiful

What's Not:

- Not a fan of the stand design
- Bezels a tad too thick

BOTTOMLINE

Once you go big, you'll never go back.

Motorola X

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara

Motorola is back. After a long absence in the local smartphone arena, the brand has returned with three of its current generation devices. At the top of the list is the Moto X, a flagship device that's equal parts muscle and handy everyday features. We're lucky enough to be among the first to get our hands on the phone, and here's what we think.

DESIGN ★★★★☆

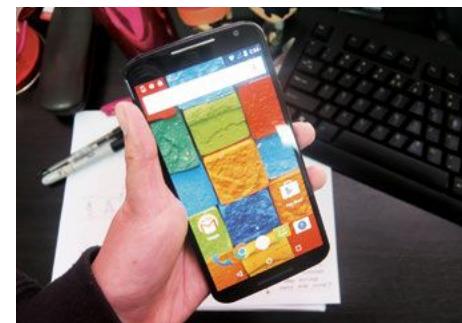
The Moto X is a nice-looking device. It has a matte black back with the Motorola emblem boldly displayed at the top, under the main snapper. The texture gives you enough grip, and feels really good to touch. The front is tough glass, with nicely rounded edges, further giving the phone that premium feel. The screen, a nice 5.2-inch affair, doesn't have the thinnest bezels, but still keeps it thin enough to not distract from the image. Above and below the screen, there are what appear to be speaker grilles. Both are raised, aggressively textured, and have distinct edges. They aren't sharp enough to hurt you, but may cause problems for other devices, should they share a space with this phone.

The power button and volume rockers, which are both located on the right edge of the phone, are similarly shaped, though only the power button has the texturing, which works great, as this keeps you from pressing the wrong button when you're not looking at what you're doing. The top of the phone is home to both the nanoSIM card tray and 3.5mm headphone jack.

The most striking thing about the X is just how sleek it looks. The curve of the back, premium feel, and color palette all give you the impression of subtle class. None of the phones in recent memory immediately invoked this feeling, and I am under the impression that this alone will get more than a few customers to jump on board.

HARDWARE ★★★★☆

A pretty face isn't worth a whole lot without the brains to match. This second iteration of the Moto X gives you a Qualcomm 801 chipset, a 2.5GHz quad-core processor, and 2GB of RAM. LTE comes standard with the X, and we expected no less. The screen is an AMOLED deal, and has a resolution of 1080 x 1920 pixels. It's about 424 ppi, and more than sharp enough to enjoy movies, images, and games. You also have a 13MP main camera with auto focus and a dual LED flash.



It's non-expandable, though you do get 16GB of storage on board. Those who are heavy on file usage might have to look into decent cloud storage to unload the internal memory. Battery-wise you have a 2300mAh battery, and Quick Charge 2.0, to make the most of what time you have at the wall.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★☆

Some of you may be surprised that the Moto X doesn't quite pack the same specs as other flagship devices out there now. Using the device though, it is clear that that's not the point. This is not to say that the phone is a slouch. It performs just as well as other devices I have used, even those with beefier specs. Android, in its current form, is very well optimized for the hardware it plays in. Motorola has made it all about the user experience.

For example, if you want to launch the camera, hold the camera in one hand, then flip the device twice. With the camera app open, do the same motion to switch to the front camera. The implementation of this simple little feature is solid. No false positives, and it works consistently. It's also simple enough that you don't forget to use it, and is overall a nice, user-centered touch.

Baked right in to the ROM is a scheduled "Do Not Disturb" feature that silences all alerts within a specified time, save for a user-specified whitelist of contacts. I'm a very light sleeper, and the slightest alert has me bolting out of bed, expecting zombies. I have tried putting the phone on silent, but more than once I have either forgotten to place the phone back in audible mode, or missed a few important messages. I'd rather have the built-in solution than some convoluted workaround any day.

The battery of the Moto X might not be the largest in its segment, though it does manage to pull together a day of use. On the plus side, it charges exceptionally fast, hitting 60 percent at just half an hour of wall time. As a bonus, the charger it comes with has two USB ports—a nice touch, particularly for someone like me, who is constantly worrying about a dead battery.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Dimensions: 5.54 x 2.85 x 0.39 in
Weight: 144 grams
Connectivity: GSM / CDMA / HSPA / LTE, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi
Screen: 5.2-inches, Gorila Glass 3, AMOLED
OS: Android 5.1 Lollipop (via update)
Processor: 2.5GHz Krait CPU, quad core
RAM: 1GB
Storage: 16GB non-expandable

What's Hot:

- Gorgeous
- Great charging time
- More than adequate specs

What's Not:

- Small-ish battery
- Speaker grilles stick out significantly
- Nano SIM

VALUE ★★★★☆

The Moto X is a great phone, but not for the same reasons other devices try to be amazing. It isn't a powerhouse exactly, and while it's perfectly capable, it really shines in user experience. It's a gorgeous device, has optimizations that are not gimmicky or difficult to work with, and comes at a surprising PHP 16,999 price tag.

BOTTOMLINE

If you need a new phone, and don't want something that looks like a shrunken brick, this is a serious contender.

WD My Passport for Mac 2TB

Reviewed by Mika Fernandez-David

Everyone who uses portable laptops like MacBook Airs and ultrabooks knows that portability has its compromises, the biggest of which is limited storage space. To address this problem, WD has several lines of portable storage devices tailored for the different needs and ecosystems of end users.

DESIGN ★★★★☆

The My Passport for Mac is one of the four variants of WD portables that are specifically formatted for the OS X platform. The others in the series include the My Passport Studio, My Passport Air, and My Passport Pro that come with various connectors, transfer speeds, and levels of utility software.

The entire series sports minimalist styling, which goes well with Mac's design cues. Unfortunately though, unlike their counterpart products for PCs that come in several colors, these only come in the black/silver color way.

The refreshed My Passport for Mac sports a sleek matte black finish, complemented by its textured silver-metallic sides and base. This new finish doesn't only look nice, but it also makes it less prone to the scratches that the previous gen tended to attract a lot of.

The device is 110 x 81.5 x 20.9mm, almost the same size as a man's wallet, and can easily fit in one's pocket. It only has one port for both power and data using the included USB 3.0 cable.

Box contents include the device, its USB cable, and the instruction manual.

HARDWARE ★★★★☆

Straight out of the box, the My Passport for Mac comes pre-formatted with HFS+ (Hierarchical File System Plus), which is Mac's native OS file system. The Plug and Play device also supports Apple Time Machine, which make things just a wee bit more convenient to back up files, especially for those who exclusively use their HDs in the Mac environment. Alternately, for those who access the device with multiple platforms, the device can also be reformatted to be used in both Windows and Mac environments.



The My Passport for Mac supports the USB 3.0 interface that allows for faster transfer speeds. For security, users have the option to activate 256-bit encryption that is hardware based, and doesn't affect transfer speeds.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★☆

I've actually been using a 1 TB WD My Passport for Mac for the past two years and have never encountered any problems with it *knocks on wood*. It is one of the things that always goes everywhere my MacBook Air goes, as I try not to save much on my device's limited space.

Having double the capacity, this unit is slightly thicker and heavier than my current device, but is still very portable.

VALUE ★★★★☆

A wise teacher once told me never to scrimp on storage devices, because while the more dependable ones come with a bigger ticket price, the data stored in them is priceless.

BOTTOMLINE

Everybody needs storage. Be sure to get yours from a reliable brand.



SPECIFICATIONS:

Dimensions: 110 x 81.5 x 20.9 mm
Compatibility: Formatted HFS + Journalized
Interface: USB 3.0
Capacity: 2TB

What's Hot:

- Plug and Play
- Portable size
- Dependable brand

What's Not:

- Not convenient for those who use multiple platforms
- A bit pricey because of the capacity



Braven Balance

Reviewed by Mia Carisse Barrientos

The portable speaker market is rife with some really nice audio devices today. In general, those that are apt for carrying around often come in small packages that, though capable of pleasant audio output, lack satisfying deep sounds. This is what Braven had in mind when they created the Balance.

DESIGN ★★★★☆

The Braven Balance is a solid and beautiful, minimalist eye-candy that is fashioned like a clutch purse. Its svelte form factor and anti-slip exterior makes the Balance easy to hold. The unit we reviewed came in a bright pink base complemented with gray patches on top, bottom, sides, and back that would make a pleasant splash of color on a neutral desk or just about anywhere.

The front is taken up by a neatly-arranged grille, while on top are physical buttons to power on/off, play/pair, and adjust the volume of the speaker. These buttons are divided by a Braven label in the middle and grouped into two for easier control. The back of the Balance comes with four rubber clumps on each corner to prevent scratches when you lay it flat (on its back) on a surface. The ports are enclosed with a thick rubber flip cover for fail-safe protection when submerged in water.

HARDWARE ★★★★☆

When I first took hold of the Balance, my first impression was: "Isn't this quite heavy for a portable Bluetooth speaker?" For you to get the picture, the Balance has the heft akin to carrying a netbook on one hand. This shouldn't pose as a problem as the quality put into this speaker more than makes up for its weight.

Know that sometimes the heavier the product is, the more features it has. Braven's rather hefty structure is because of an integrated proprietary bass optimization system. This is the secret behind its ability to produce deep, rich, and clear lows at different volumes.

Sporting an IPX7 waterproof rating, you can take comfort in knowing that this speaker can survive a plunge in up to one meter of water for 30 minutes. This gives you added flexibility without

worrying that the speaker will keel over if you adjust the volume with your hands dripping wet or when it gets splashed on while playing music by the pool.

It has a USB charging output, a 3.5mm stereo input, a button for checking the battery status, reset button, and comes with 4 power supply plugs in the package. Its 4000mAh battery promises up to 18 hours of playtime and can also serve as a power pack for your mobile devices. I haven't charged the Balance since the day I got it. Five days into using it, it still delivered clean, powerful music with the battery still good for at least another day of use.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★☆

I couldn't quite figure out how the Bluetooth pairing works when I first tinkered around the Balance. But a quick scan of its manual gave me the proficiency to operate the product with no trouble. After making sure that the device is turned on, I pressed the button long enough to hear a prompt that said "pairing." Then with your Bluetooth-enabled device, scan for the Balance, select, wait for a voice that prompts a successful connection, and play. You can also choose to connect it to non-Bluetooth devices via its 3.5mm stereo output.

For full power when outdoors and in spacious areas, you can make use of the Boost Mode feature. To enable this function, while playing at max volume, hold down the power and plus buttons simultaneously. Doing this surges power into the speaker system and instantly boosts your audio beyond its max level.

Its output was just the right balance between low, high, and midrange frequencies at different volumes. I just noticed that turning up the volume to max level produced sound with too much sharpness in it. Then again, you wouldn't do this if you want to keep your sense of hearing.

**GADGETS
EDITOR'S PICK**



SPECIFICATIONS:

Dimensions: 4.96in x 8.23in x 1.85in
Weight: 1.79lbs
Connectivity: Bluetooth, 3.5mm stereo input, and USB charging output, 5V 1A
Waterproof Rating: IPX7
Battery: 4000mAh

What's Hot:

- Bassy and powerful
- Nice, portable design
- IPX7 waterproof rating

What's Not:

- Quite hefty for carrying around

VALUE ★★★★☆

The Braven Balance is a low profile, nice-looking speaker priced at PHP 5,850. With a 4000mAh battery, hands free, and noise-cancelling functions, as well as added ruggedness, this speaker offers true value you wouldn't find elsewhere.

BOTTOMLINE

Looking for a speaker that strikes the perfect balance between portability and ground-shaking sound output? Look no further than the Braven Balance.

Cignus UV85

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara

As convenient as our cellular networks are, they're not always going to be the most reliable. As old as the system is, UHF and VHF radios still serve a very important purpose, thanks to their reliability and their ability to work on their own, without the support of a separate network infrastructure. They can also be a little prohibitive, price-wise. Things have changed. The local company Cignus, is bringing this vital piece of technology to the market at very reasonable prices. We got a weekend to play with the Cignus UV-85, and here's what we gathered.

DESIGN ★★★★☆

The UV-85 is a great-looking device. While a lot of the radios available to the public tend to look like toys, this particular model looks serious, like an actual piece of hardware serious adults would use. The front of the device is home to the display, which shows the current function, and active frequencies. Below the display, you have the speaker grille, and all the device keys for setting the frequency and picking other device functions. It might seem a little overwhelming at first, but the basic uses won't require you to use all these keys, so don't sweat it too much. The push to talk button is off to the left side, while the other side hides the mic and headphone ports for the user's convenience. The op holds the volume knob, which also serves to power the device on. It's large and easy to find and manipulate, even with gloved hands.

HARDWARE ★★★★☆

The UV85 is a UHF and VHF transceiver. It's capable of catching and transmitting over the majority of the CB band, so if you have other non-Cignus radios, you should be able to communicate with those just fine. As an added bonus, and since there is an overlap, it also packs an FM radio, allowing you to monitor local stations, though at the cost of not being able to transmit. You also get a little LED light that can be used as a rudimentary flashlight or beacon, in conjunction with the radio's siren function. Power for the device is provided by a 1800mAh lithium-ion battery, rechargeable via the included dock and wall plug.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★☆

We used the radios on a trip up to Tagaytay recently. We were running a convoy, and not everyone knew the place, so communication was of greater importance than usual. The first, and most convenient thing we noticed about the device was its handy size. Unlike a lot of other similarly-spec'd radios, the UV-85 is small and light. I was able to clip it onto my seatbelt with no problem, and it was neither uncomfortable, nor did it try to work its way to a lower position while we were moving. When you're on the move, say on a hike, and every gram counts, you're going to be thanking yourself for the reduced weight of the unit.

Getting the device to work was dead easy. Power the device on, select a frequency by scanning to the

GADGETS
EDITOR'S PICK

desired one, or keying it in with the number keys (while the device calls out what numbers you press) and you're all set. The UV-85 can have one frequency live, and have another saved, and switching to one or the other is as quick as a single button press—very convenient when you're in a group. Being able to set the frequency also means you can jump right in and catch others broadcasting on any frequency in range, as long as you know which one to key in.

With the basic short antenna, we were able to communicate even shortly after we had lost sight of the other car. We didn't have any repeaters set up, so this was to be expected, but even then, the range was more than useful. Even though we could have called with our phones, or maybe sent a quick SMS, the instant replies one gets from a radio are just much more convenient, particularly when you're moving at speed, or on a time-sensitive run.

Battery life was more than adequate. Even on a trip that lasted a few hours, stops included, a weekend at Tagaytay, and a trip down, the radios just refused to quit. There wasn't a lot of time to charge in the middle, mostly because we forgot, but based on our limited time with them, we were impressed with the longevity of the batteries.

Additional features on the device were useful as well. A built in FM radio meant that we could listen to music or news even when away from our cars, and a flashlight/beacon could be triggered to signal, or move around in the dark. While we had a rather tame weekend to try the devices out, we were all very pleased with their utility, and unanimously agreed that such a small, handy, capable device would be very much appreciated in the event of an emergency.

VALUE ★★★★☆

Similarly capable devices run into five digits. The Cignus UV-85 sells for just over PHP 2,000. For the peace of mind, convenience, and usability they bring, these things are impressive. Should the mobile networks get too loaded to function, or if they were to get knocked out altogether, this could be a potentially life-saving solution.



Photo from Chris Dorga's Google+ Profile <https://plus.google.com/118036040731299704541/posts>

SPECIFICATIONS:

Freq. Stability: 2.5ppm
Frequency setup: 2.5kHz/5kHz/6.25kHz/12.5kHz/25kHz
Antenna Impedance: 50Ω
Battery: 7.4V 1800mAh, Li-ion
Standby consumption: <75mA
Transmit consumption: <1.4A
Receive consumption: 380mA
Mode of operation: Simplex or Semi Duplex
Dimensions: 58mm x 110mm x 32mm
Weight: 130g

What's Hot:

- Great battery
- Lots of functions
- Easy to use

What's Not:

- Charges only via proprietary dock and charger

BOTTOMLINE

You can't be completely prepared without a CB radio. This fits the bill very nicely.

California EcoBike Hensley

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara

While preparing to review the excellent California Eco Bike Malibu the other month, I went and took a look at the rest of their personal transportation devices. One of them immediately caught my attention, and I knew I had to review it.

The Hensley is an electric, gyro-stabilized, single-wheeled personal vehicle that packs up handily, can take you all over the city, and charges right from a standard wall outlet. Is it a gimmick or is it actually useful? I went and found out firsthand.

DESIGN ★★★★☆

Describing the Hensley isn't hard. It's like the product of the union of a small scooter wheel, and a utility box, with platforms for your feet. There is little by way of controls or indicators: just a single power button near the carrying handle, and a set of LEDs to indicate remaining charge. On either side of the wheel are sturdy aluminum platforms on which the user stands, and that's it! It's impossibly simple, and awesome for being so. Looking at it, particularly when you're porting it around, people aren't likely going to have an idea what it is, which is definitely part of the charm.

The bike is about a foot high, though riding it puts your own feet just a few inches off the ground. It's also a little on the heavy side, but not so bad as to keep you from picking it up and taking it with you up a flight of stairs, or moving it around indoors for storage. Carrying it with you for quick jumps between MRT stations might need some strength, but isn't totally out of the question, and is definitely easier than taking a bike with you.

SPECIFICATIONS:
Motor: Brushless 350W
Battery: 2.2Ah, li-ion
Tire: 14-inch
Max load: 110kg
Max Speed: 15kph
Max range: 20km
Charge time: 2 to 4 hours

What's Hot:

- Fun and surprisingly practical
- Charges easily from a wall outlet
- Enough range for all your daily walks and then some

What's Not:

- Has a bit of a learning curve
- A bit on the heavy side

HARDWARE ★★★★★

The Hensley has a 14-inch tire, and is pushed along by a brushless 350W motor, and 2.2Ah Lithium Ion battery. It has a carrying capacity of 110kg, and a riding distance of about 20km per charge. It's gyro-stabilized, and has no trouble keeping up with rider input, so you can just focus on your trip. It comes with its own wall charger, and tops up in 2 to 4 hours.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★☆

Riding the Hensley is conceptually simple. Step on, give a gentle kick off the support foot, and go. Accelerating is achieved by leaning forward, stopping via a gentle lean back.

The first time I laid eyes on the Hensley, I was absolutely excited. "I'm going to have so much fun!" I thought to myself. Then I picked it up and tried to go for a ride. And failed. So I tried again, with the same result. This continued for a few minutes, though with each successive ride, I managed more and more time between having to ditch. After perhaps an hour, I was sheepishly making my way along my friend's driveway, slowly making turns, and stopping when I wanted, not when gravity demanded.

I liken the experience to learning to ride a bike. You're going to tip over a few times, but there's no other way to train your brain and body to this new way of doing things. Fortunately, you're already standing, so falling off the Hensley will likely mean you're going to end up on both feet every time. I had to bail a lot while learning, but not once did I even have to put a hand on the ground. It's actually quite safe.

If you find yourself having more trouble, the Hensley comes with a set of training wheels to help you balance. These are a huge help, though might also give you a few bad habits you'll need to unlearn later, so take them off as soon as you can. Once you do get a feel for the machine, and



get the confidence you need to hit the road, it's impossible to explain just how fun this is to ride. It's responsive, quick, and much more enjoyable than walking. You do give up the stability of the two-wheeled Malibu, but it's a lot more nimble, and you can pick it right up if you have to. The range is a little less than the advertised 20km, though that's likely caused by my habit of accelerating and stopping frequently. I have no doubt that the top speed of 15kph is attainable, though you're probably going to want to dial back before then, for the sake of safety.

Carrying a bag while on the Hensley is totally doable, though you might want to give it a try before hitting the streets, since it is going to change your balance a little. Another thing to consider is pants. At the start, before you figure out where to place them, your calves are going to get a little banged up. It's totally worth it though. This thing is fun.

VALUE ★★★★☆

If only for the fun of it, the Hensley would be worth it. The fact that it actually lets you get around conveniently, and for the cost of a few bucks per charge actually makes sense. If you're in one of the areas where places are odd distances away, or if you live and work around a small area, it's a viable option for moving about.

BOTTOMLINE

You don't have to worry about walking, or finding a parking spot. What more could anyone want?



Apple MacBook

Reviewed by Maribelle Alba

When Apple first announced the new 12-inch Macbook last March, my reaction was: "Nah, that's not for me." But I ended up buying one anyway. Here's why.

DESIGN ★★★★★

This is the thinnest and lightest MacBook, being only slightly over half-an-inch (1.31cm) at its thickest point and weighing in at less than a kilo (0.92kg)! My iPad Air, which I carry around in a Belkin case with built-in keyboard (for those times when I need to do some work), actually seems thicker and heavier. To achieve this engineering marvel, Apple redesigned the MacBook as a totally new product, introducing many innovations on the hardware level.

One major decision that has people shaking their heads but could eventually become the new universal connectivity standard is the use of the single USB-C port for charging, data transfer, and connecting to peripherals. Of course, to fully optimize its utility, you would need to get a USB-C multiport adapter, which has a USB-C charging port, a standard USB port, and an HDMI or VGA port. The USB-C port is located on the left side; on the right is a headphone port.

To fit a full-size keyboard in the MacBook's super-slim body, Apple used a new butterfly mechanism that makes the keys more responsive with less vertical travel. I found myself "pounding" on the keys initially, until I learned to use a lighter touch.

The trackpad has also been reengineered, with a capacitive glass surface overlaid on Force Touch sensors that detect the pressure you're applying and a Taptic Engine that gives you tactile feedback when you press on the surface.

The MacBook comes in three colors: silver, gold, and space gray. Two storage capacities are offered: a 256GB drive with a 1.1GHz processor, and a 512GB drive with 1.2GHz processor.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

One major outcry when the MacBook was announced was against its processor, a dual-core Intel Core M, running at a measly 1.1/1.2GHz with turbo boost up to 2.4/2.6GHz. On paper, this seemed like a step down from the Core i5 or Core i7 processors on the MacBook Airs and MacBook Pros. With the Intel Core M, the MacBook was able to achieve fanless architecture, a smaller logic board, and better energy efficiency, all without sacrificing performance.

With 8GB of onboard memory, the MacBook is a fully-capable machine, able to handle the multi-

tasking requirements of road warriors. Flash storage of 256 or 512GB gives you quick access and lots of room for your apps as well as work and media files. The MacBook has a 0.88mm paper-thin 12-inch Retina display with 2304x1440 resolution, 16:10 aspect ratio, and 178-degree viewing angle. Backed by an Intel HD Graphics 5300 card, images are sharp and vibrant.

For multi-media needs, it has built-in stereo speakers and dual microphones. Plus, an audio port that supports the iPhone headset with remote and microphone, perfect for when you want to do some private FaceTime chats over the built-in 480p camera.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

The best thing about the MacBook is that it gives you a full-sized laptop in an extremely slim and lightweight package. Now, instead of accepting the limitations of my iPad, I can actually pop the MacBook into my purse and not feel weighed down. This means I can do much more than just read email or draft articles; I can actually work on elaborate presentations and creative layouts.

Start-up is fast, performance is generally snappy, and Wi-Fi is strong (so long as you have a good connection).

I like to work on a bigger display at home, so the MacBook's dual display capability is also a plus that is somewhat offset by the single USB-C port, which means I need to attach the HDMI cable and the power cord to the multiport adaptor. If I need access to a USB drive, that also needs to be plugged in to the same adaptor, making for a rather tight squeeze. Annoying, but something I can live with.

Although Apple claims battery life to be up to 9-hours on Wi-Fi, I have never been able to get past 7-hours of mixed use, including some standby time. I guess it's because Wi-Fi is usually spotty everywhere, and I tend to have too many apps open.

Running on OS X Yosemite, setting up the MacBook was a simple matter of typing in my Apple credentials and leaving the machine on overnight to sync my apps and other stuff into this particular device. I've also bravely opted to install the OS X El Capitan public beta, and so far everything has been a breeze.

SPECIFICATIONS:

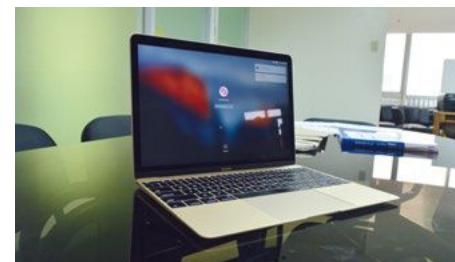
Operating System: OS X Yosemite
Display: 12-inch LED backlit with IPS technology; 2304 x 1440 resolution; 225ppi; 16:10 aspect ratio
Processor: 1.2GHz dual-core Intel Core M
Memory: 8GB 1600MHz DDR3
Storage: 512GB flash drive
Graphics: Intel HD Graphics 5300
Connectivity: Wi-Fi 802.11ac; Bluetooth 4.0
Camera: 480p FaceTime camera
Dimensions: 28.05 x 19.65 x 0.35-1.31cm
Weight: 0.92kg
Battery: 39.7Wh lithium-polymer; up to 9hrs wireless web, 10hrs video playback, 30-days standby

What's Hot:

- Very slim and light
- Great graphics
- Fast, snappy performance
- Capable multi-tasker

What's Not:

- You need to buy a multi-port adapter to optimize the USB-C port
- Battery life is less than claimed



VALUE ★★★★★

As with other Apple products, the MacBook is premium-priced at PHP 64,990 for the 256GB and PHP 79,990 for the 512GB model. At those prices, you can actually get a 13-inch MacBook Pro with better specifications. However, I think the MacBook is meant to create a totally new category of laptop users—people who need more functionality than, but with the portability of, the iPad.

And, while people are still shaking their heads at this early stage, I bet that a visit to the Apple Store and seeing the MacBook up close will make some of them change their minds like I did. Apple has a way of making you need something you didn't think you did.

BOTTOMLINE

No matter the criticisms and the shortcomings, Apple makes beautiful machines that deliver excellent performance. Expect the MacBook to be the next tech must-have.

Clichéd as it sounds (and contrary to the song from The Righteous Brothers), time does indeed go by quickly. When you're having fun as much as we have been, 12 months seem like mere weeks. Though we can't physically celebrate this milestone with you, we'll let the ravishing Alicia Faubel convey how much your support means to us. We'd give you cake, but we already ate it all.

Cheers to Volume

16!



White dress by **ZALORA**
Necklace by **Yololaz PH**



WD My Passport for Mac

A premium device needs
premium storage.

Dress & Shoes by **ZALORA**

Epson L220

When the printing gets tough, this printer gets tougher.





Lenovo Yoga 500

This hybrid bends over backwards to please you.

Dress by **ZALORA**
Accessories by **Yololaz PH**

A full-page photograph of Alicia Faubel. She is lying on a gold-colored surface, propped up on her arms. She is wearing a dark blue, off-the-shoulder, form-fitting dress. Her long, dark hair is styled in loose waves. She is looking directly at the camera with a soft expression, her right hand resting against her head. The background is a rich, textured red curtain.

Dress by **ZALORA**

New Classic

Interviewed by Mia Carisse Barrientos

Seeing models posed fiercely on billboards and gracefully strutting down the runway often leaves onlookers awestruck. That's the effect these tall beauties have on people who see them, and exactly how we felt when the 5'9" Alicia Faubel arrived on set.

Alicia's porcelain skin, long frame, gorgeous locks, and stunning smile had us mesmerized, leaving us no question as to whether we picked the right face for the job. She hugged and greeted each member of the team with enthusiasm, creating a sunny atmosphere on what was until then, a gloomy, rainy day.

Talking to Alicia was like chatting with a friend you've known for years. From her crazy adventure stories to her tales of romance, she eagerly shared her life experiences with us, holding nothing back. A natural in front of the camera, Alicia captivated everyone with her playful smile and intense gaze.

We could tell right away that she was born to excel in her craft. As a matter of fact, she has appeared in commercials back in Spain when she was younger. Given the chance to choose another career though, it would be to become a fitness instructor, since she wants to change lives by helping people become healthy.

Behind her jaw-dropping look is a free-spirited 18-year-old guided by her dreams. Alicia goes by her own rules. She's a visionary looking to strut her way to greater heights without yielding to the pressures of the modelling world.



Art Director **Benedict Asal**
Photographer **Dookie Ducay**
HMUA **Patricia Aquino**
Styling **Jonah Mendoza**
Assisted by **Genevieve Maglaya**

Milestones in Mobile Devices

Words by Mia Carisse Barrientos

As someone who was born in the early '90s, I can pretty much say that I am witness to how tech evolved at the turn of the millennium. Just a couple days ago, while cooking up an intro for this story, I pictured how my chunky old phone looked, and all my experiences with it. I began to wonder how that chunky piece of tech turned into the sleek, stunning smartphones we have today.

It's amazing how everything we see around us started as an idea. These ideas, with support and the necessary funding, then turned into great innovations that make life much easier. Let us take the devices we have on our person right now and take a look back at how things were five, ten years ago.

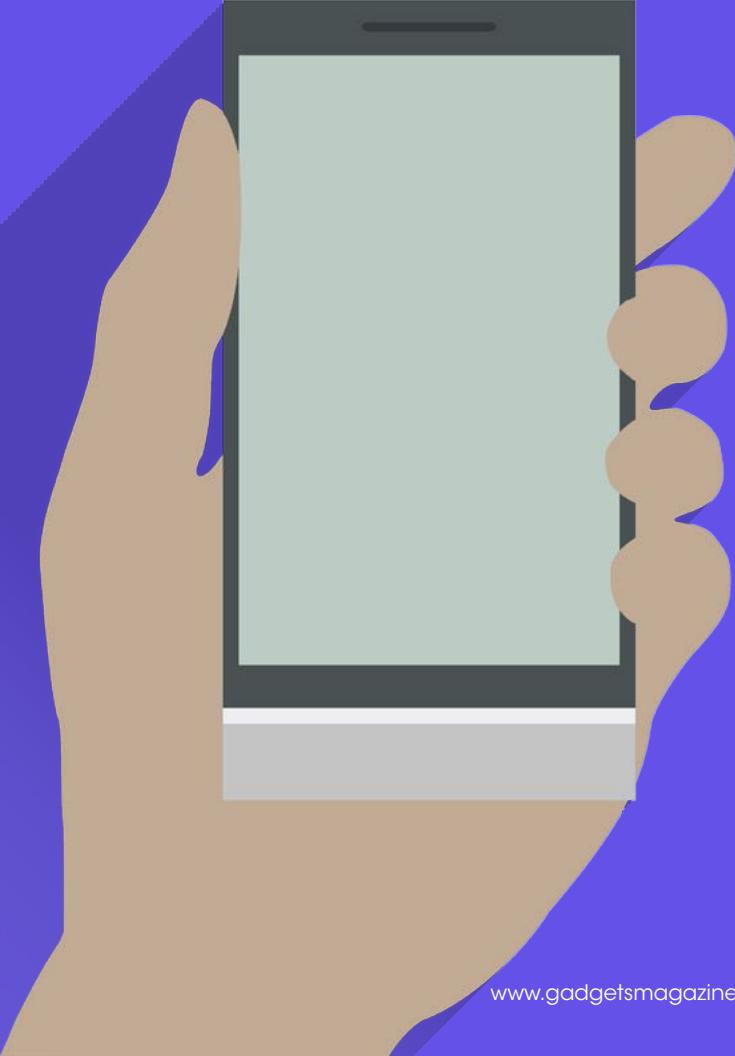
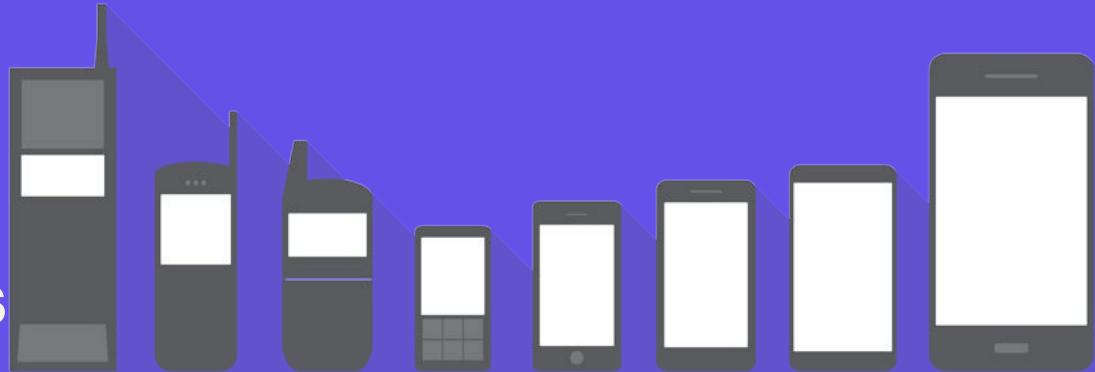
Computing Decades Past

We can say that the success of portable computing today can be credited at least in part to the ground-breaking discoveries and innovations of several companies decades past. We're going to have to skip the abacus and a few other names and devices to keep this story from being a long drag.

Let's begin with a man named Charles Babbage. This name would often come into the discussion when talking about computing. As many of you may already know, the first generation computers were designed by Babbage. Some of which include colossal electro-mechanical computers like the Difference Engines. Although it has been said that Babbage didn't get to finish his work, many innovators used his design as an outline and succeeded. While putting electro-mechanical computers side by side with the technologies we have today might show little to no resemblance, these clunky machines paved the way for many processes and mechanisms that power the portable gizmos we now have at our disposal.

Portability and Processing Power

In layman's terms, a portable device usually means that the gadget is small enough to carry around with no trouble. Looking at the UNIVAC I (Universal Automatic Computer)—the first computer to gain widespread traction in the commercial computing market—and perhaps majority of personal computers produced in the early '90s, this concept was improbable. Just think of hauling a grand piano behind you wherever



you go and you'll get what we mean.

Years later, the unwieldy vacuum tubes that were used as switches to control the processes of first generation computers were replaced by transistors. The transistor functioned as a solid-state electronic switch that is relatively more compact, energy efficient, and faster than vacuum tubes. This conversion made for significantly smaller computers and commenced the trend of reduction in terms of size in computing devices 'till now.

In search of a more reliable computer system that is less likely to generate heat that can damage other components, the integrated circuit (IC) or microchip, and microprocessors were born. Basically, in an IC or microchip, several components are contained and interconnected to a single small base. With the condensing of components and fitting them all in a single piece, it was only a matter of time before even smaller, more efficient devices followed. These innovations, though minuscule in size, propelled the development of computers small and inexpensive enough for home use and working on-the-go. The early portable machines were only portable in a relative sense. It would usually go as big as luggage, which is technically not that travel-friendly considering the weight of the computing hardware it was built upon.

In retrospect, today's battery-powered mobile devices have systems that clock faster, have more processing power and storage memory in them

than most of the computers that took up a whole room and spent months' worth of power at a time. Mobile devices have come such a long way that they can now even fit in one's pocket without being able to tell that it's there.

Internet Connectivity

The '90's signaled the beginning of the Information Age. This was brought upon homes having personal computers and access to new information with the establishment of the World Wide Web (www). However, do take note that internet infrastructures and content available on the web were a far cry from what we have now. The Internet was initially meant to provide a system of communications, for sharing information, to those in the scientific and military fields through available routes that will be sorted out by the network. The then complex system soon was made available commercially, and developed into a fast highway for connecting the whole world.

Soon enough, mobile devices picked up a feature that allows it to tap onto the web without wires. More than calling abilities a 1G network could provide, 2G or GSM enabled phones allowed its users to exchange text messages, access downloadable content, and do basic web functions such as view and send emails, leaf through a selection of online multimedia content, and download ringtones and music files. This utility help establish the use of mobile phones as everyday communication tools. The

arrival of smartphones coincided with the launch of 3G wireless networks. This in turn opened up doors for improvement in terms of software and application development. 3G networks also allowed for accurately faster data transmission when High-Speed Packet Access was employed.

Riding on this development, online media exploded as more and more turned to digital content. With all these web-based opportunities, manufacturers began making refinements e.g. vivid and larger screens on their mobile device offerings, granting consumers a better experience when accessing digital media. Now that 4G is on the rise and talks of the launch of 5G networks are surfacing, innovations ten-fold greater than what is in our current devices are being cooked up. These upcoming advances are bound to change the tech game once again.

Integrated Cameras

Cameras have gone a long way since the dedicated snappers we used to carry around during important life occasions. Before the term camera became synonymous with smartphones, they were first associated with computers. The webcam, which is a peripheral accessory to computers, allowed users to record, share, and virtually communicate with the person on the receiving end of the network face to face and in real time without physical presence. From being an accessory, the webcam has since been incorporated to devices such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops to further champion connectivity on the go.

Cameras integrated in mobile phones do not serve the same purpose they did with webcams on laptops/PCs. They simply function as a camera that is connected to your phone. The early onset of this tech trend came into picture with the integration of lenses that are capable of producing 350,000-pixel resolution images on handsets with colored LCD displays a little over an inch large. Consumers welcomed this idea and clamored for better features. A new generation of shutterbugs was formed with the explosion of social media. Everyone wanted to be online and they knew grainy default photos just wouldn't do. And so, the race for megapixels continued creating phones with dual cameras and sensors capable of producing photos with resolutions as high as 7728 x 5368 pixels and 4K video recording. We might think that the snapper showdown has reached an end at 41MP, but it is far from being over.

Looking Beyond

The mobile device industry has evolved into something we previously only imagined before. The brick-like "portable" phones of past limited for use in a single digit mile range has now turned into a large visual display devoid of physical buttons you can take with you anywhere. It might just fit in your bag or pocket as of this writing, but maybe one, two, more years later you can twist and shape it to whatever you want. Looking further ahead, you might not even need to touch it.



Milestones in Home Entertainment Technology

Words by Chris Noel Hidalgo

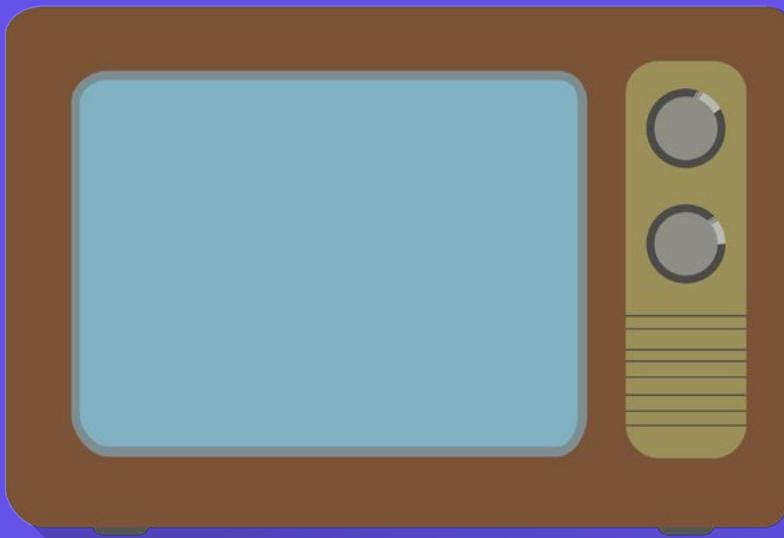
Every time you click the remote control, remember that you're clicking through decades of audiovisual history. Yes, that bazillion-inch flat screen television you have sitting in the middle of your living room was once a mere potato, only able to produce images that look just like the said tuber. Thankfully, it evolved into the huge hunk of panel that we all longingly stare at like dogs to a bone. Below are just some of tech's most impressive historical developments that will hopefully allow you to appreciate just how far it's come.

The Television is Born

The evolution of that huge chunk of screen in your living room isn't as simple as A to B; in fact, its timeline is more akin to a Christmas tree, with broad beginnings stemming from the experiments of the world's greatest minds. How broad was this beginning, you ask? Let's just say that it involved various transmission systems, elements, and image rasterizers that can thankfully be divided into two major groups: the mechanical and electronic television tracks.

The former involves a moving mechanism—a rotating disk with holes—that scans the image and generates a video signal on one end, and decodes it on the other. While it was a successful proof of concept, the mechanical television never really panned out due in large part to its low resolution outputs. If today's display outputs were measured by pixel dots, the mechanical TV only produced vertical lines of images. The most it was able to muster was 240 lines.

Meanwhile, the latter took the form of the infamously bulky Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) TV. It uses a vacuum tube to break apart inbound signals into audio and video waves, bouncing the resulting electrons via electromagnets to quickly fill the screen with color. There were many versions of CRTs at the time, but standardization deals saw to it that the technology prospered in both the industry, and in consumers' homes. The first of these electronic television sets were able to produce 525 lines—the characteristic grain of old school TVs.





Life in 4K

While CRT TVs eventually hit the gym to slim down and become the more manageable and visually appealing flat screen sets, the next huge step for consumer TVs was undoubtedly 4K. This buzzword is the successor to HD and full HD resolutions, packing 3840 x 2160 pixels for image quality never before seen outside high-end studios and cinemas.

Most 4K TVs measure upwards of 55 inches. Yes, 4K TVs are supposed to be that big. The added size allows viewers to really enjoy the 8-million pixel capability in all its glory; something that lesser sizes will struggle with as you can only pack so many pixels in lesser real estate.

Of course, outputs on a 4K TV won't be as vibrant as advertised if they weren't natively 4K. That's why most other media, such as games, movies, shows, and series as well as capture devices like cameras, are slowly being integrated with support for the resolution.

Smart TVs

Another piece of tech jargon that's being thrown around lately is "Smart TV" and it's being hyped for good reason: it brought TVs from being panels limited to your A/V input into essentially giant tablets. Gone are the days when you were limited to the same programming. As Smart TVs pushed themselves into the mainstream, customers have been able to enjoy apps and mobile content on the big screen.

Currently, Smart TVs can be had through two ways: by buying one out of the box with its own built-in operating system, or by hooking up a regular TV with a small form factor PC.

There are currently four major platforms being used in the market, namely webOS, Tizen, Firefox, and Android, used by giants LG, Samsung, Panasonic, and Sony, respectively. Each has its own perks, including available apps, user interface, integration with other devices, and intuitive controls. The technology is still young

at the moment, and it's going to take a couple of years before Smart TVs reach their peak and become known as just "TVs."

Or if you can't wait that long, cheat and plug in a small form factor PC, whether Windows or Mac OS. While it technically makes your television smart, it wouldn't be as optimized as the real thing.

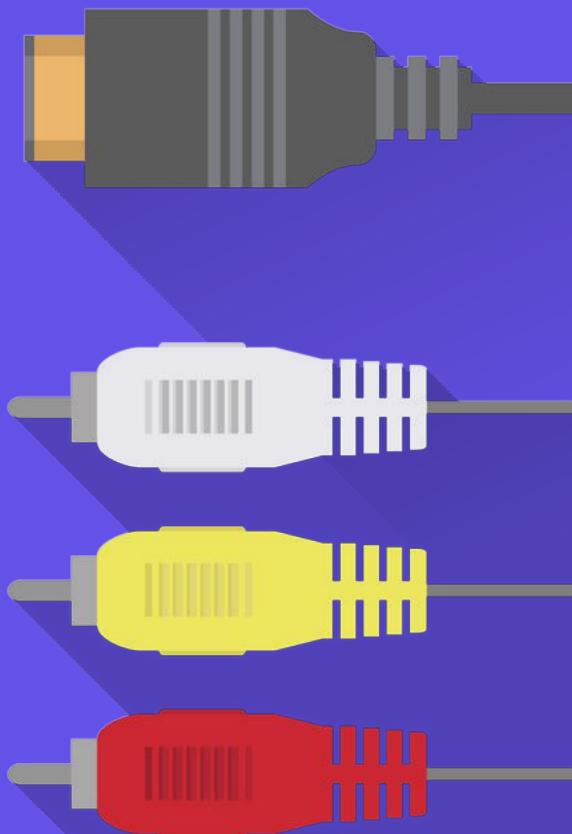
From Wireless to Wired and Back Again

Old but still gold, Cable TV is still today's most reliable and most affordable way of getting something to watch on your TV. While it boasts much better quality than modern analog signals, it was actually designed as a compromising solution for those far-flung areas miles away from signal towers. After some time, the development of satellite broadcasts for cross-country programming, exclusive channels, and pay-per-view shows made Cable TV profitable. Households were willing to pay for more content and value-added services, and providers were more than willing to please. It was a win-win for everybody involved.

However, the problem with Cable TV is that it's fleeting and every blink brought with it a chance of missing something epic. Enter the Videocassette Recorder, a device that allowed viewers to record their shows using cassette tapes. Two formats were trying to one up each other during this time—the Betamax and VHS. The latter ultimately won owing to its longer tape duration, wider licensing agreements, and better overall features.

After spending more than thirty years on the video format throne, the VCR eventually bowed out to CDs and DVDs. These aged better as their materials do not degrade, though they are very prone to cracks and scratches. Still, these were able to store higher quality video and audio and in the world of media, the clearer those two are, the better. The current king of physical media, the Blu-ray, is even better, with a storage capacity of 25GB to 128GB that allows it to store 1080p footage at 60fps.

With the advent of internet-enabled Smart TVs, video on demand services such as Netflix and YouTube are becoming more practical ways of accessing content—as long as your internet is fast enough. These, along with other wireless entertainment providers, are now poised to bring media distribution full circle.



Milestones in The Operating System

Words by Ren Alcantara



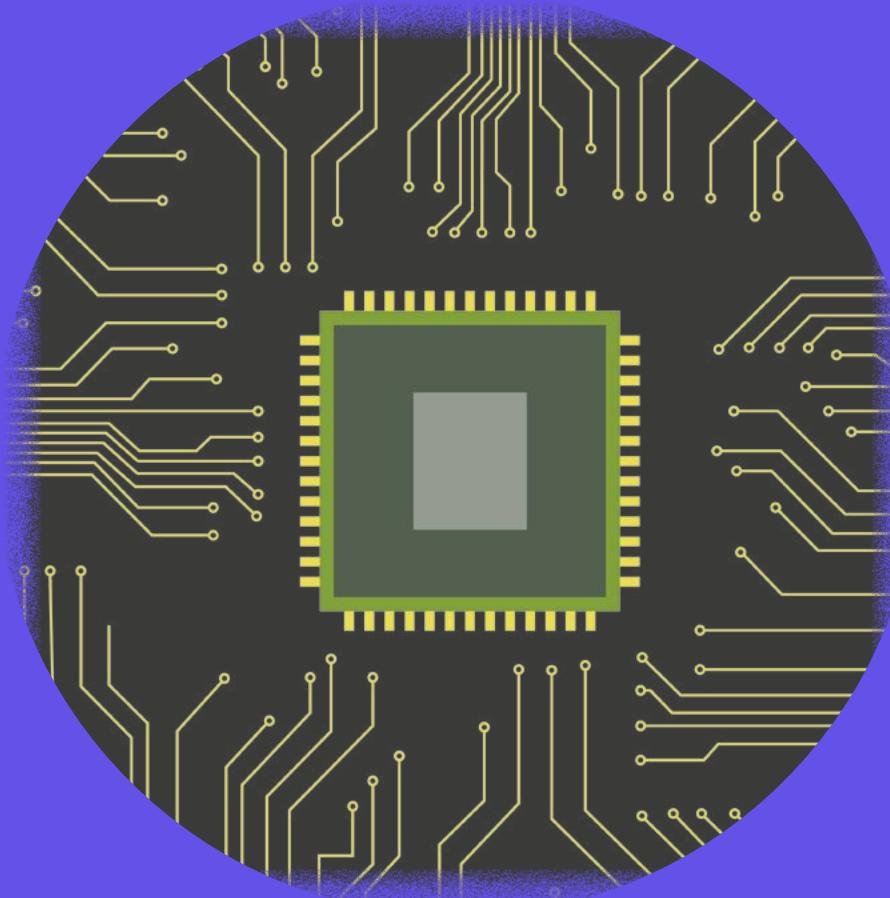
Operating systems are aspects of technology that are often overlooked by the end user. This is a testament to just how sophisticated modern operating systems have become. It takes a lot of finesse to make something so complicated blend so smoothly with the user experience. Such was not always the case. Getting there was a long, difficult journey, wrought with hardship, strife, and monochrome displays.

While it would be handy for machines to talk to us the way we talk with other people, this just isn't their strong suit. At the heart of it, a computer is a series of switches that are either on or off, which can really put a damper on carrying out a nice conversation. The OS is more than just the aspect of the system you interact with. An operating system brings together hardware and software resources, allows them to play nice, and is an essential part of the computer system as a whole. While similar to applications, applications require, and are generally written for particular OSes.

Early computers could only run a single task. It helps to think of them as machines built to automate and speed up simple computational tasks. You would have one machine that would just plot graphs, or tally massive numbers, or some other repetitive task. Later machines developed some versatility in that they could perform different calculations as indicated by instructions on a punch card or some similar form of physical media. There would be a single, massive machine, and people would schedule time to use it. The necessary cards would be fed to the machine, which would run the program (or not, if it was buggy), and you would get your data. Should the program require some tweaks and troubleshooting, these could be applied via toggles and switches, as guided by lights on the machine itself. Back in this day, people would form queues, with order dictated by hanging program cards on a clothesline.

As time went by, and computers became more complex, so too were the functions they could





carry out. Eventually, computers came with their own set of core instructions to better, and more efficiently handle the punch card, and later, magnetic tape programs. This was the next big step. It allowed the automation of several tasks, including queueing processes, record-keeping, creating "paper" trails, and resource allocation. This made the whole computing thing that much faster, thereby lowering use costs. It also allowed better, automatic tracking of data, which was of particular importance to security-sensitive tasks (nobody wants the IT department snooping on HR's files).

Considering this first core set of instructions an OS wouldn't be too far from the truth. The OS we see and use now is that, and a whole lot more, even though the average user might not see the resemblance.

The OS wasn't really of a lot of relevance to the common user until about the 80s, when personal computing started to take off. The devices of this era had a very basic, entirely text-driven operating system, with the option to install and use other OSes. They weren't all that complex, and the machines also ran apps that took over the machine completely, down to the basic functions, essentially turning them back into the early, single-use machines of old.

Modern operating systems do so much more now, but at the heart of it, are the same. This core, the

Kernel, is the intermediary between the software and hardware in your device, in particular the RAM, CPU, drives, peripherals, and the like. It is the piece that lets the programs use resources. Different OSes have these written differently as well, which is why a particular application written for a particular OS won't work on a different one.

Operating systems are present on most of our computing devices. The appearance of the smartphone made personal computing even more personal, and came with its own set of OSes. Smartphone operating systems are a peculiar beast. They have relatively limited resources, absurdly long runtimes, and shallow power reserves, so the OS has to compensate. Being computers in their own right, early handhelds did have an OS, but ones that were rudimentary at best, particularly when viewed beside their more recent kin. They didn't really have the ability to run applications not baked in with the device, and were just handhelds with a very narrow set of uses.

Smartphones—primarily identified as those who have the ability to install and run purpose-written applications—really changed the scene. There were a few players, particularly early on, with many falling by the wayside in light of the assault by current-generation mobile operating systems. One such platform was Palm OS. This was primarily (though not exclusively) featured on Palm-branded devices. With a heavy focus on

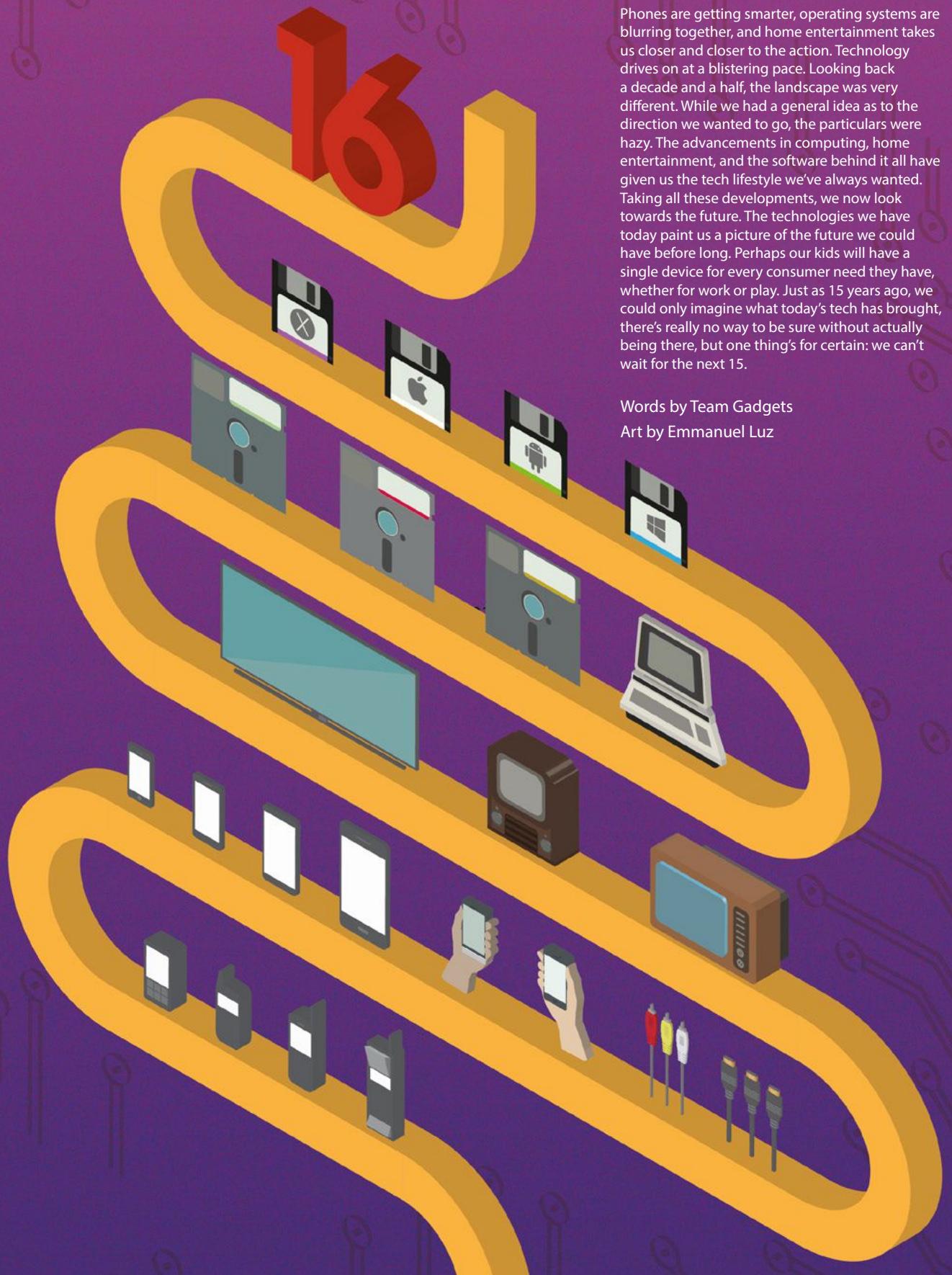
organization, and looking to take the place of a notepad, the PalmOS had an emphasis on stylus use and quasi-handwriting recognition, plus a wealth of apps (at the time) to help people do a host of different tasks. While primarily made for the now-obsolete Personal Digital Assistant, the OS eventually made its way to the smartphone, with only a few changes.

Concurrently, several manufacturers jumped aboard the Symbian OS bandwagon. It was a tremendous success. With the backing of large manufacturers like Nokia and Ericsson (later Sony Ericsson), Symbian became the biggest mobile operating system in the world. Nokia's S60 platform and Ericsson's UIQ brought the mobile OS into mainstream use. People were beginning to understand just how convenient it was to have apps on their phones; a development brought about by the mobile OS. Chances are good that if you're reading this article now, you've used a Symbian smartphone at some point in your life. It was a simple, solid operating system that managed relative usability, with a decent learning curve. A lot of work was put into making devices that were easy to use, and the best smartphones of the era were running Symbian.

Windows was also on the field. Pocket PCs were a thing back then, and ran the Windows Mobile OS. Devices came from various manufacturers, and were available as having either a phone stack, or being used exclusively as a PDA. While similar in appearance with their larger, desktop counterparts, they ran what was in essence, a light version, optimized for the lighter pushing power of the hardware, and smaller screens with limited input options.

The next step for the mobile OS in particular, and the operating system in general might be in the form of what the dream was this whole time. A truly integrated OS, one whose core doesn't differ between smartphone and desktop is finally, realistically possible. There are, of course, going to be some things that are out of reach for the moment, what's great is that it is now a limitation of the hardware, and not of the underlying software. Cross-device compatibility means more chances to be productive, and less time adjusting to a clunky mobile or "lite" version of a full-featured program. The OS is evolving to give us something that is more of what we were promised from the start: a real computer in our pockets.





Phones are getting smarter, operating systems are blurring together, and home entertainment takes us closer and closer to the action. Technology drives on at a blistering pace. Looking back a decade and a half, the landscape was very different. While we had a general idea as to the direction we wanted to go, the particulars were hazy. The advancements in computing, home entertainment, and the software behind it all have given us the tech lifestyle we've always wanted. Taking all these developments, we now look towards the future. The technologies we have today paint us a picture of the future we could have before long. Perhaps our kids will have a single device for every consumer need they have, whether for work or play. Just as 15 years ago, we could only imagine what today's tech has brought, there's really no way to be sure without actually being there, but one thing's for certain: we can't wait for the next 15.

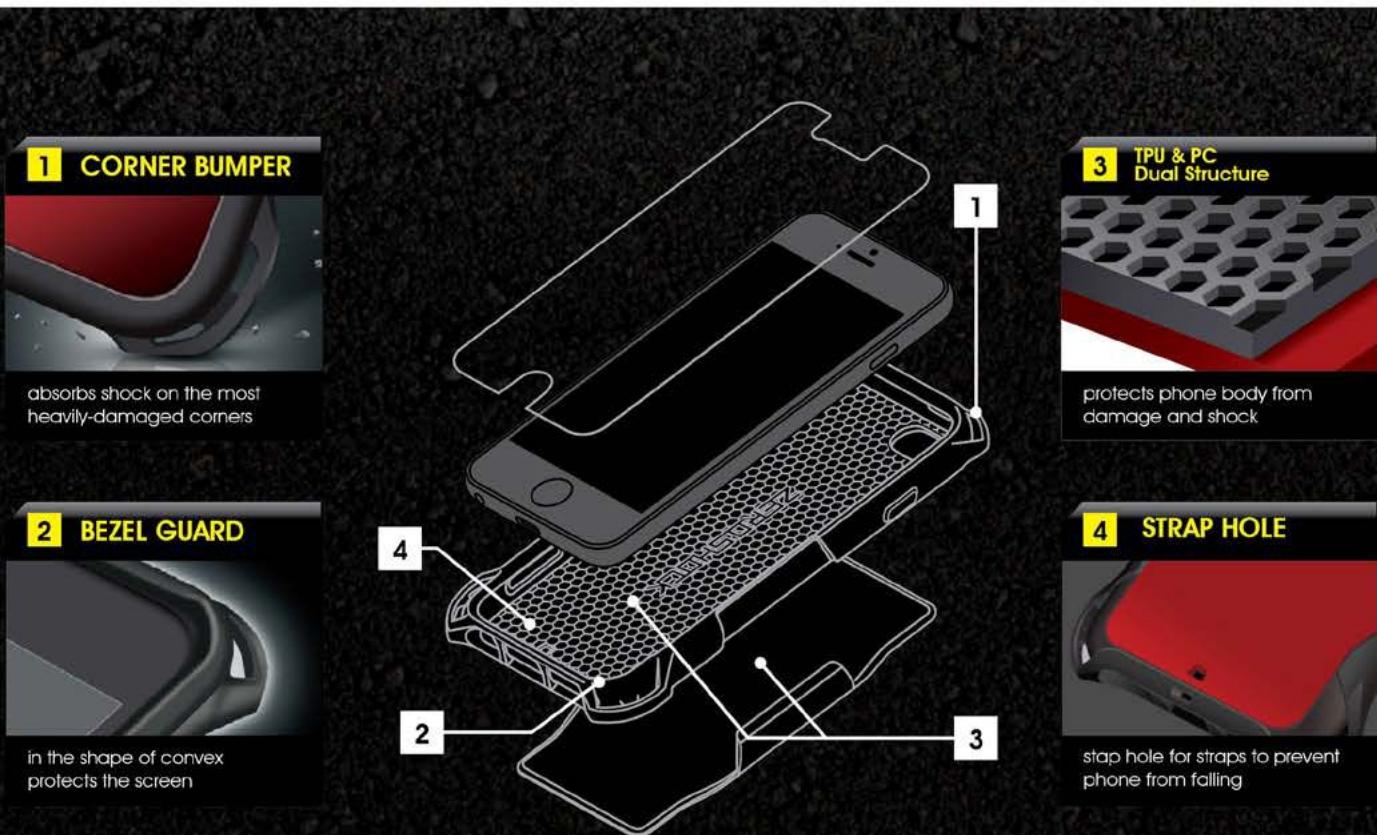
Words by Team Gadgets

Art by Emmanuel Luz

ZEROSHOCK

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ELECOM Japan Design

2015 Suzuki Grand Vitara AT Limited Edition

Reviewed by Mika Fernandez-David | Photos by Nicolo David

We drove the limited edition Suzuki Grand Vitara crossover and we were impressed with what we saw.



What's Hot:

- Elegant styling
- Attractive pricing

What's Not:

- No reverse sensors
- Fuel consumption is a bit high in the city



DESIGN ★★★★☆

Less is more. Those are the words that best describe the Suzuki Grand Vitara. While other manufacturers went the aggressive route with their top hats, Suzuki kept its lines muted and low-key, similar to designs of European origin. The silhouette of the original Vitara is still discernible in their current generation model, yet it exudes a modern, minimalist vibe that never goes out of style.

New to the Grand Vitara is its front grille and the new bumper that incorporates its fog lamps. The side mirrors with signal repeaters, outer door handles, as well as its spare tire cover, now come in body color, making everything matchy-matchy and pleasing to the eyes.

The unit we drove was a tasteful shade of bronze that is only available with the limited edition variant. The other special features that come with this trim were its 18-inch alloy wheels, roof rails, front grilles, champagne-colored accents for the center console, dash, and door trims, as well as the suede and fabric seat upholstery.

Suzuki describes the Grand Vitara as their off-road athlete, offering a more complete package than their smaller 4x4, the Jimny. Measuring 4500 (L) x 1,810 (W) x 1,683mm (H), and with a minimum ground clearance of 188mm, Suzuki's crossover sits five, and offers generous legroom for its occupants, and a workable amount of luggage space in the boot.



The minimalist approach still applies to the interior of the Grand Vitara. The dark interior is streamlined with symmetrical knobs and switches, and pop-up covers neatly conceal the cubby and cup holders when not in use.

The integrated instrumentation is a three-ring affair, each coming with its own housing and trims. Aside from the usual warnings, it also displays instantaneous fuel mileage, average fuel consumption, and cruising range distance. The leather-wrapped steering wheel is tilt and telescopic, and is fitted with volume and search controls.

The head unit has a touch-screen display, with Tuner/MP3/TV/VCD/DVD and navigation functionality. The unit supports Bluetooth connectivity and has numerous media ports, including a 30-pin cable (for the iPhones 5s and its contemporaries) and a female USB plug tucked away in the glove box. The Grand Vitara also has two 12-volt outlets on the center console for the myriad of devices we constantly need to juice up.

HARDWARE ★★★★☆

The Grand Vitara is powered by Suzuki's 2.4 liter J24B gasoline engine that produces 230Ps @ 6000rpm and maximum torque of 227Nm @ 3800rpm. This 16-valve DOHC with variable valve timing (VVT) power plant is the same one that powers Suzuki's sporty D-segment sedan, the Kizashi. Locally, the Grand Vitara is only available with 4-speed automatic transmission, and comes with a gated shifter that is mounted on the center console. Stopping power is courtesy of front and rear ventilated discs, and comes with ABS, EBD, and Brake Assist.

The rear-wheel-drive Grand Vitara has a monocoque body with a built-in ladder frame for greater stability and enhanced rigidity. Independent MacPherson strut front and Multi Link type rear suspension gives it its confident handling, although personally, I would have wanted it a bit softer to absorb more bumps.

Other safety features include a high mount stop lamp, dual airbags, side impact beams, energy absorbing trim, as well as Suzuki's patented TECT design on its body.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★☆

Despite what its name suggests, the Suzuki Grand Vitara isn't a grandiose carriage that will whisk you away in the lap of luxury. It also isn't a huge SUV that will seat three families. And it doesn't have the cushy soft leather seats and gizmos we usually associate with top tier variants. What it is, however, is a no nonsense crossover, that is totally capable of transporting you and your family for work and for play. It's comfortable, and has zen-like styling that is actually quite elegant.

Visibility is good behind the wheel, and both seating and pedal positions are very comfortable. Steering is a bit on the heavy side, but nothing unreasonable. Handling is responsive. Suspension is a bit stiff, but with our roads, it's just about right.

My biggest gripe about it though would have to be its lack of backup sensors. Even though it's already equipped with a monitor to display the feed from a rear camera, I would have been fine with just proximity sensors that beeped when you approached anything solid. The other is the automatic shifter—I'm not sure if it was because its gated shifter lacked the shift lock button on the shaft, but shifting from PARK to DRIVE (or where ever) was sometimes pretty harsh. The good thing though is that it doesn't affect anything once you get in gear.

VALUE / PRICE ★★★★☆

The Suzuki Grand Vitara is priced at PHP 1,160,000, while the limited edition variant is pegged at PHP 1,210,000. This attractive price tag certainly makes the Grand Vitara a practical choice in its segment. Shipped straight from Japan, the Grand Vitara is available in six popular colors: white, silver, grey, black, brown, and limited edition bronze.



BOTTOMLINE :

In the market for a new crossover? Make sure that the Grand Vitara is in your short list.



2015 Honda Civic 1.8 E

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara | Photos by Ren Alcantara

The Honda Civic is a well-loved car the world over. Here in the Philippines, it has a very loyal following, and for good reason. Comfort, power, and a sleek design have allowed it to win the hearts and checkbooks of car enthusiasts everywhere. The local automotive scene has changed, however, and it seems to have lost its dominance. Does the Civic still have a place in the seemingly endless sea of sedans, or is it due to give way to smaller, more capable vehicles?

DESIGN ★★★★☆

The 2015 Civic has practically the same body as the last year's model. It has matured somewhat from the older style that first appeared in the late '10s, and has a statelier, more refined look to it. It still has a sporty vibe to it, though it has given up the aggressive stance for more flowy lines from the headlamp to the tail lights. If you're wondering where the mean-looking Civic of old is hiding, look at the car head-on, and you'll find it.

Despite its more grown-up look, the Civic retains enough of its older self to still get your heart racing.

Its low-slung profile that looks like it's constantly fighting the urge to sprint forward remains present, and its broad, flat windscreen makes it appear like it's being blown back by the wind. This is accentuated by the backwards and upwards-sweeping headlamps, which at a single glance tells you that it's a car that can go, and go fast.

Inside, the Civic is as roomy and comfortable as ever. There isn't a lot of fancy trim for this model, but that's to be expected. This isn't to say that it's spartan. The surfaces are nicely detailed, with leather grain and fabric in just the right places, making it look refined, not cheap or over the top.

The wheel is a three-spoke affair, black with matte silver trim.

HARDWARE ★★★★☆

Moving the car along is a 1.8 liter SOHC i-VTEC engine that gives 141Ps @ 6500rpm and 174Nm of torque @ 4300 rpm, mated to a 5-speed automatic transmission with paddle shifters. Taking care of stopping power are front ventilated, and rear solid disks. Helping to keep the car solidly on the asphalt is an Independent MacPherson Strut-type suspension with stabilizer, and a double wishbone suspension with stabilizer in the rear.



The steering wheel offers tilt and telescopic adjustment, to accommodate drivers of different sizes, and though it doesn't come in leather as on the higher models, looks and feels almost at good.

Cruise controls are present on the right side of the wheel, while on the left, you have access to audio, and multi-information display controls, allowing you to cycle through the state and range of your fuel, time, audio functions, and call functions.

Safety features abound on the Civic. Apart from ample crumple zones, ABS, electronic brake force distribution, and front airbags come standard on the E model. You also get a rear camera for backing up, and power folding wing mirrors

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

If you've driven any of the fairly recent Civics, the 2015 model should be a very familiar experience. It's zippy, quick to get to its favorite RPM range, and very responsive on the brakes. The car itself is also quite nimble, despite its wide profile, and quite happily flicks into and out of gaps.

Acceleration is more than adequate, though if you're in a real hurry, you're going to want to flick the paddle shifter down twice to get a little more sense of urgency going. The car will very happily oblige.

Power steering is a little floatier than the older model, though it still gives enough feedback, even when you're going at speed. This is important, as the Civic manages to accelerate so smoothly, and faster than you would imagine, you might end up breaking past 100 without really realizing it.

Trust us, it has happened more than a few times. If you're doing this on purpose, switch over to

sport mode, and you're almost wholly in charge of when the car shifts up.

The car can be put into eco mode, allowing you to drive sedately and get more range, and the process is made much easier by the coaching light around the speedometer, which glows green when you're driving efficiently, and transitions to blue when you're starting to let your lead foot show.

The car manages about 8km per liter in the city, which given the traffic was a pleasant surprise. Highway driving sees that number jump to around the 18km/l mark, even with the occasional overtaking maneuver. It's quite okay in the city streets, but likes a little room to stretch its legs.

Creature comforts are plenty, the most convenient being keyless entry. As long as the fob is reasonably close to the door, say, in your pocket or bag, just pull the door handle, and the car unlocks.

Hop in, hit the brake, push the big red button to start, and you're off. The Civic is even nice enough to have automatic headlights that have an ambient light sensor to know when to switch on, and can be programmed to switch off once you step out the vehicle and shut the door.

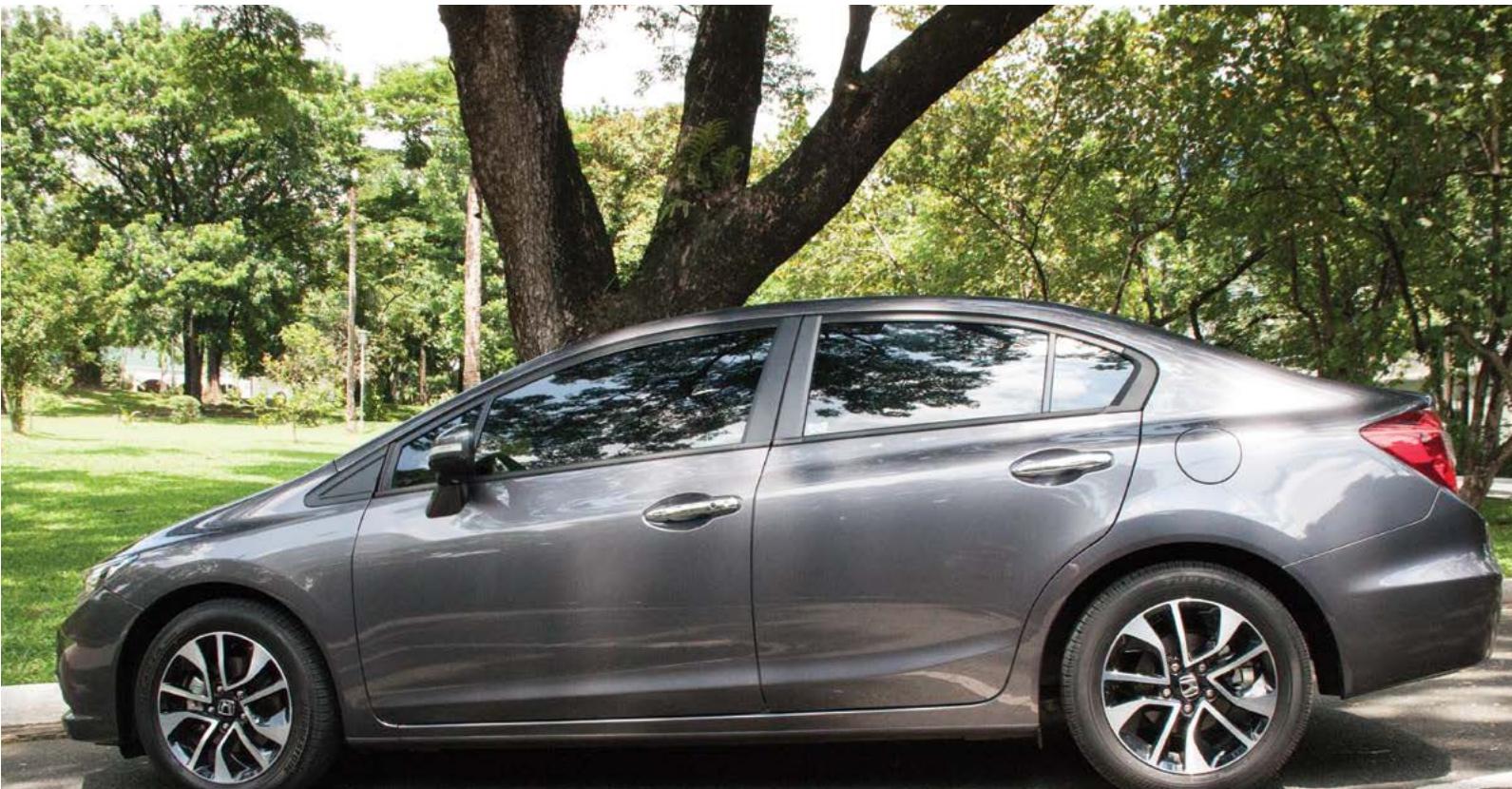
The entertainment system is surprisingly robust. The head unit has a 7-inch screen, HDMI, and USB inputs (with a spare USB port in the center console, for charging). You can even connect your phone via Bluetooth, to get access to both your music library (or streaming service) and call audio. The process is painless, and solid.

VALUE / PRICE ★★★★★

For a car at its price point, which is a little over the PHP 1-million mark, the Civic brings quite a lot to the table. More creature comforts than we expected to see at the price range. It's as fun to drive as ever, safer than before, and has killer looks. Though the lower-tier cars are starting to encroach on the Civic's turf, we have to say, this is still the better-looking vehicle.

BOTTOMLINE :

This marque still has a lot of fight in it.





Kia unveils the all-new Forte

Last June 23, Kia formally launched their newest offering on Philippine shores, the Forte, in three variants: a four-door sedan, five-door hatchback, and two-door Koup.

"The three Forte variants relate to different markets but at the end of the day, they all carry the renowned Kia name and with it is a guarantee of refreshing interiors, compelling styles, and powerful road performance," said Columbian Autocar Corporation (CAC) president Ginia Domingo.

"The all-new Forte truly exudes a dynamic presence on the road and we can't wait for everyone to try a different driving experience aboard any of the three Forte variants," she added.

The Forte 4-door sedan is complemented by an efficient Gamma 1.6L inline-4 cylinder, DOHC, D-CVVT, 16-valve, MPI engine putting out 130Ps of power @ 6300rpm and 157Nm of torque @ 4850rpm.

This daily driver packs motor-driven power steering (MDPS) for greater steering feel and quicker response and is equipped with the patented Flex Steer System that allows different levels of steering assistance—Normal, Sport, and Comfort.

Priced at PHP 965,000, the Forte 1.6L EX A/T 4-door is Kia's take on what a traditional sedan should offer. It is available in five vibrant colors: snow white pearl, temptation red, aurora black, metal stream, and planet blue.

For those that are looking for a ride that has both substance and function, Kia presented the 5-door hatch variant.

Under the hood, Kia's latest 5-door hatchback is powered by a NU 2.0L inline-4 cylinder, DOHC, D-CVVT, 16-valve, MPI engine with maximum power of 161Ps @ 6500rpm and maximum torque of 194Nm @ 4800rpm. The Forte hatchback is furnished inside with an equally striking leather material for its seats and advanced multimedia capabilities.

Take advantage of limitless possibilities with the Kia Forte 2.0L SX A/T 5-door hatchback, now offered at PHP 1,190,000. Get it in one of five distinctive body colors: racing red, planet blue, aurora black, snow white pearl, and metal stream.

Completing the all-new Forte variants is the 2-door Koup designed with power in mind. Its NU 2.0L inline-4 cylinder, DOHC, D-CVVT, 16-valve, MPI engine with a maximum power output of 161Ps @ 6500rpm and maximum torque of 194Nm @ 4800rpm consistently delivers a powerful and reliable drive. The Koup's 2.0L EX A/T variant exudes a sporty vibe, further accentuated by the frameless doors and 17-inch alloy wheels.

Creature comforts are not left out of this spritely ride. Dual zone full auto climate control, MDPS and Flex Steer System, and state-of-the-art entertainment panel with rear view camera make this chic coupe the choice of car lovers everywhere.

Team Kia announces new name for PBA Season 41

Columbian Autocar Corporation (CAC), franchise owner of one of the youngest teams in the PBA, has just announced that the franchise will now sport the moniker "Mahindra Enforcer" for the league's 41st season.

On this branding and name change, CAC president and representative to the PBA Board of Governors, Ginia Domingo, said in a statement: "In its initial showing in the PBA's 40th season, our Kia Sorento and Kia Carnival teams have shown their mettle and their determination to be one of the contenders in the league. We are quite proud of this achievement in such a short period of time."

Mahindra is an Indian-based automobile company best known for its commercial vehicles. It is recognized in India as one of the largest vehicle

manufacturers by production and regarded as the world's largest manufacturers of tractors. Its presence in the Philippines will surely be a welcome addition for the local automotive and commercial vehicle market.

The change of name is in support of Mahindra's entry in the Philippine market. Mahindra Cars is also a division of CAC.

"On behalf of the Columbian Group, we thank everyone—the league, the sports writers, and most especially, our fans for their support of Team Kia."

"We hope for the same level of support and encouragement from the public for the Mahindra Enforcer as they take on the hard court this upcoming PBA season," Domingo added.



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All Kia cars are produced in Korea.

Isuzu to carry five new heavy-duty trucks

Isuzu Philippines Corporation (IPC) exhibited five of its newest C and E Series heavy-duty trucks at the 2015 Isuzu Truck CBU Special Display at their plant in the Laguna Technopark at Biñan, Laguna. Lasting for four days, the showcase included the EXR51F Tractor Head golden yellow (available in 20-tons, 42-tons and 45-tons); the EXZ51K Tractor Head marine blue (available in 33-tons and 60-tons); the CYZ51M Cab and Short Chassis (available in 33-tons); the CYH51T Cab and Long Chassis (available in 41-tons); and the NPS75 4x4 Cab and Chassis; all promising even more power, durability, and fuel efficiency than their predecessors.

The trucks are powered by a 14.2L 6WF1-TCC direct-injection OHC diesel engine which outputs a maximum 390hp @ 1800rpm and 1,863Nm of torque. This power plant also arrives with an electronic controlled common rail system that reduces harmful fumes while improving fuel efficiency.

"To be the number one market leader in the truck segment, you need to have a variety of products that will build and maintain customers. Today marks another special day for IPC as we displayed

our latest heavy-duty trucks here in our office in Laguna," said IPC president Hajime Koso.

"We are aiming to provide every business with world-class quality trucks that can endure through time," Koso added.

The C and E Series trucks feature a wider gear range with 7-speed and 16-speed configurations for better handling. It is accompanied by an inhibitor shift warning alert which notifies the driver when the vehicle is keyed to the wrong gear. The haulers also come with simplified rear body mounting which adds trailer versatility; heavy-duty front and rear leaf-spring suspension that absorbs vibration for a smooth ride; and a high-clearance smoke-stack with vertical silencer for better exhaust. Owners can choose different tire sizes which range from the standard 295/80R, and an optional 315/80R tubeless up to the larger 11.00R 20 tubular tires depending on their need.

The interior is spacious enough for up to three passengers. Cup holders, air conditioner, AM/FM radio with CD player, reclinable air suspension seats, center seat back tray, optional bed, easy-to-read meters, and telescopic powered steering wheel are just some of the other amenities available in the cabin.

The new trucks' safety features have also been reinforced. Backing up its highly rigid cab construction and steel door beams are features such as ABS, worry-free trailer coupling, locking fuel tank with step to prevent theft and spillage, replaceable sediment filters to remove deposits and water from oil, and a protective insect screen over the radiator grille to avoid damage caused by stone chips and insects.

The C and E series trucks will initially be available in limited quantities for indent orders. They are priced as follows:

- EXR51F Tractor Head at PHP 3,700,000
- EXZ51K Tractor at PHP 4,350,000
- CYZ51M Cab and Short Chassis at PHP 4,250,000
- CYH51T Cab and Long Chassis at PHP 5,200,000
- NPS75 4x4 Cab and Chassis at PHP 1,700,000

Isuzu D-MAX completes five-day fuel-efficiency marathon with 2,191km run



Isuzu Philippines Corporation's (IPC) D-MAX flagship pickup proved that it's more than just a powerful and reliable hauler as it satisfactorily finished a five-day eco-marathon throughout Luzon. Taking place last June 1 to 15, the 2015 Isuzu D-MAX 2.5L 4x2 M/T and A/T variants were

able to go 2,191km and 1,873km respectively on just one full tank.

Aboard each pickup was a group of four: a driver, a navigator, and two support members. The M/T model saw the father-son tandem of Vip and Ivan Isada at the helm with crew members Art Guevara and Sonny Oliveros; while the A/T edition was captained by Raymund Dimapilis and Enrico Mabunay, alongside crewmen Carlo Consumido and Richard Rosales.

Present at the flagoff were IPC president Hajime Koso, IPC vice president for sales Daisuke Inaba, and Isuzu Manila general manager Von Chavez. Verifying the results of the run was Ruben

Manahan IV, corporate communications officer of the Automotive Association Philippines (AAP).

The vehicles made their first stop in Laoag (first day), then in Tuguegarao (second), Clark (third), and Albay (fourth). Going dry a few towns before Legazpi was the 2015 D-MAX 4x2 A/T. It managed to log a total 1,873km on an average of 24.65km/l.

The M/T D-MAX was nearly empty during the fifth day, but it was still able to reach the Port of Matnog before stopping along the roads of Nabua, Camarines Sur. All in all, it travelled 2,191km in one full tank, averaging 28.33km/l.

"We are quite happy with the results on how the D-MAX, both manual and automatic transmission performs in terms of fuel efficiency. Without a doubt, the new D-MAX is a perfect vehicle for people who live in the Metro but need the versatility of a pickup. It's tough and powerful yet refined and efficient—simply implying that it is all you need" said IPC president Hajime Koso.



Berjaya Auto Philippines launches upgraded Mazda6 Sedan and all-new Mazda6 Wagon



Mazda has finally unveiled the upgraded Mazda6 Sedan and much-awaited all-new Mazda6 Wagon at ceremonies held in Makati City. The launched vehicles showcase an evolved exterior and interior unique to the Mazda brand, as well as improved connectivity, functionality, and equipment for its flagship vehicle. From Mazda's Kodo: Soul of Motion design and lightweight SKYACTIV Technology, the Mazda6 Sedan and Wagon sport a brawnier outside look with a newly designed grille and signature wing, a darkened high-luster coating for the 19-inch aluminum wheels, and sharper front and rear LED lighting that come along with the same prominent fenders and low rear-leaning cabin.

On the inside, the Mazda6 features a redesigned and larger center console, instrument panel and climate control buttons, with a gated shifter for automatic models. Users also get to enjoy the heads-up cockpit adapted from the Mazda3 and Mazda2, in a roomier cabin and with a human-machine interface that optimizes customers' convenience while driving. Seats offer a new vibration-absorbing material with 8-way power-adjustable driver's seat and 6-way power adjustable front passenger seat, as well as larger rear legroom, knee space, and even storage space in the widened center console and door pockets.

Added functionality include the Active Driving Display, a 7-inch touchscreen positioned on top of the dash, an 11-speaker BOSE surround

sound system, a rotary commander on the centre console—all of which are a first of the Mazda brand—and MZD Connect, Mazda's in-car smartphone connectivity concept that brings an assortment of free mobile content into the car such as internet radio and Facebook and Twitter feeds. The Mazda6's boot has the capacity of 480 liters for the Sedan, and 522 liters for the Wagon, or 1,664 liters with the seats folded.

Under the hood of the Mazda6 is a 2.5L SKYACTIV-G direct injection engine which is mated to the SKYACTIV-DRIVE six-speed automatic transmission. This transmission now comes with sport mode for added linear responsiveness via faster downshifts and increased torque in direct response to pressure on the accelerator pedal. Standard on both Sedan and Wagon are the i-ELOOP, Mazda's new brake energy regeneration system, and the advanced i-stop engine idle-stop system. The 2.5-liter SKYACTIV-G direct injection petrol engine features a high 13:1 compression ratio and a balance shaft to offset the added vibration from the most powerful SKYACTIV engine to date, for an output of 187Ps @ 5700rpm and 290Nm @ 3250rpm. The combined fuel consumption and CO2 emissions with six-speed automatic is 6.3L/100 km and 148g/km.

Making the Mazda6 an even smoother ride are the suspension enhancements seen in the new front

and back shock absorber structure and bushing shapes for the front lower arms. These come together with ergonomic interior features that add insulation and improve noise and vibrations technology, and the vehicle's strong, lightweight steel that helps bolster the body's structures and crash safety.

Lastly and most importantly, the Mazda6 premieres a wide range of advanced active safety technology that further improves the vehicles' night-time visibility, alerts the driver of unintended lane changes at 65km/h and up, also providing steering torque assistance to return the car safely to its intended lane, and an Emergency Stop Signal (ESS) that rapidly blinks the hazard lights during heavy braking to warn ensuing motorists. It also has Hill Launch Assist (HLA) that controls brake pressure to help prevent the vehicle from rolling during hill starts, and other innovative passive safety features that ensure both the customer and the car's safety.

The 2015 Mazda6 Sedan is now available at the price of PHP 1.785 million, while the Mazda6 Wagon is sold at PHP 1.795 million, in five body colors: soul red (extra cost applies), blue reflex (for wagon only), jet black (for wagon only), snowflake white pearl, and the all-new sonic silver which was especially designed to highlight the flagship vehicle's unique body lines.



Yamaha launches new Mio i 125

Yamaha Motor Philippines' new Mio i 125 is now available locally. Featuring an M-shaped design, this slim and compact motorcycle has a dynamic front face and unique lighting scheme headlining its stylish exterior which comes in blue, yellow, magenta, or black color options.

It is powered by Yamaha's Blue Core engine technology which gives the Mio i 125 maximum performance without sacrificing fuel economy. With more power generated out of less gas, riders are guaranteed to feel the benefit of its lightweight body, optimized combustion, and better cooling efficiency.

The Mio i 125 also features a large 10L capacity storage under the seat that's able to fit two rain coats and a jacket; a smart stand switch that shuts off the engine when engaged; a high-quality, high-visibility meter panel with Eco Lamp Indicator that informs riders if the unit is achieving the best speed-fuel ratio; an integrated shutter key; muscular muffler; and a three-way catalytic converter which works with the engine control and oxygen sensor feedback.

It comes with a suggested retail price of PHP 69,900 and is available in all Yamaha 3s Shops and multibrand dealers.



AN EXTRAORDINARY YOU

It's time for an Extraordinary You! The new Mio i 125, for the rider that aspires to be better. Slim detail and compact frame, it is conceptualized with an M-Shaped design that is emphasized by a front face and lighting that accentuates the model shape. A freshly re-imagined combination of power maximized with reduced weight. Pushing for a better you and allows you to do more than ever before.

MIO i 125

TECHNICAL SPECS:

OVERALL LENGTH/WIDTH/HEIGHT	1,870MM X 685MM X 1,035MM	ENGINE OIL VOLUME	0.8 L
SEAT HEIGHT	750 MM	FUEL TANK CAPACITY	4.2 L
WHEELBASE	1,260 MM	FUEL SUPPLY SYSTEM	FUEL INJECTION
MIN. GROUND CLEARANCE	135 MM	IGNITION SYSTEM	(T.C.I.) TRANSISTOR-CONTROLLED IGNITION
WEIGHT (WITH OIL AND A FULL FUEL TANK)	94 KG (CAST WHEEL)	CLUTCH TYPE	DRY, CENTRIFUGAL, SHOE
ENGINE TYPE	FORCED AIR-COOLED, 4-STROKE, SOHC, 2-VALVE	TRANSMISSION TYPE	V-BELT AUTOMATIC
CYLINDER ARRANGEMENT	SINGLE CYLINDER	GEAR RATIOS	2.294 ~ 0.804
DISPLACEMENT	125 CC	FRAME TYPE	UNDERBONE
BORE X STROKE	52.4MM X 57.9MM	CASTER/TRAIL	26.5° / 100 MM
COMPRESSION RATIO	9.5:1	TIRE SIZE (FRONT/REAR)	70/90-14 M/C 34P / 80/90-14 M/C 40P
MAX. OUTPUT	7.0KW@8000 RPM	BRAKES (FRONT/REAR)	HYDRAULIC SINGLE DISC / LEADING/TRAILING
MAX. TORQUE	9.6NM@5500 RPM	SUSPENSIONS (FRONT/REAR)	TELESCOPIC / UNIT SWING
STARTER	ELECTRIC/KICK	HEADLIGHT	12V, 32/32 W X1
LUBRICATION	FORCE-FEED LUBRICATION, WET SUMP		



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What is **EURO 4** Compliance?

In the early 1990s, European Union member states adopted a set of standards to define acceptable limits for exhaust emissions of new vehicles sold within the EU. Beginning with Euro 1 in 1993, increasingly stringent standards were implemented in stages referred to as Euro 1, Euro 2, Euro 3, Euro 4, Euro 5, and Euro 6.

The EU emission standards typically focus on toxic gases such as nitrogen oxides (NOx), total hydrocarbon (THC), non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHC), carbon monoxide (CO), and particulate matter (PM). Different standards apply for each vehicle type.

Basically, to be Euro 4 compliant, gasoline engine passenger cars and light commercial vehicles ($\leq 1305\text{kg}$) should meet these exhaust emission limits: CO —1g/km, THC—0.10g/km, NOx—0.08g/km. For diesel engine passenger cars and light commercial vehicles, the Euro 4 emission figures are: CO— 0.50g/km, NOx— 025g/km, HC+NOx—0.30g/km, PM—0.025g/km.

The Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 included provisions for setting emission standards for motor vehicles. An administrative order from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) mandated the implementation of Euro 4 standards by July 1, 2015, with the Department of Energy (DOE) ensuring the availability of Euro 4 fuels at that time.

All new vehicles sold in the Philippines are required to have a Euro 4 engine, and compliant with Euro 4 emission limits by January 2016.

Per the DENR order, the comparative quality of Euro 4 and Euro 2 fuel is as follows:

FUEL TYPE	EURO 4 FUEL	EURO 2 FUEL
GASOLINE		
Sulfur	50ppm	500ppm
Benzene (% by volume, max.)	1	5
Aromatics (% by volume, max.)	35	No limit
DIESEL		
Sulfur	50ppm	500ppm

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The Power of Dreams



The New
CIVIC

HCPI first introduced EURO 4 level ready products in 2004 and by the end of 2006, all Honda models sold in the Philippines were already at EURO 4 emission level.

DENR stresses the importance of adopting EURO 4 emission standards for the sake of minimizing pollutants in the environment and for the assurance of the quality of air that we breathe. A EURO 4 compliant emits a much lower harmful substances such as carbon monoxide (CO), hydrocarbons (HC), and nitrogen oxide (NOx).

The New City Passes EURO 4 Standards

Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. (HCPI) announces that the New City has officially acquired EURO 4 emission standard certification from Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). This is the first vehicle in Honda's line-up to be locally certified with EURO 4 level emission standards. The certification is pursuant to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2015-04 which mandates that all new passenger and light vehicles, and heavy duty motor vehicles made available in the market should comply with EURO 4 emission standards by January 2016 from the present EURO 2 emission standards.



In line with the idea to minimize pollutants, Honda always

keeps in mind leaving behind a cleaner and greener environment, which is why Honda produces products that are environment friendly, of high-quality, and safe to use. Honda assures customers that the emissions coming from their vehicles have minimal effect on the environment.

As HCPI President and General Manager Toshio Kuwahara mentioned during their HR-V and New City launch event, "It has always been one of our thrusts to leave blue skies for our children. As part of our continuing mission to do so, we at Honda are one with the government's endeavor to help protect and sustain our environment and do our part to ensure breathable clean air. We would like to assure our customers that Honda takes proactive actions to help contribute in reducing the destruction of our ozone layer

and the effect of global warming." As of present time, Honda is proactively applying for certification for the rest of their vehicle line up. Kuwahara announced, "By January 2016, all Honda vehicles, from the smallest Brio to the Odyssey minivan will be officially certified as EURO 4 compliant."

For more information regarding the New City and other Honda automobiles, please visit www.hondaphil.com or any of the authorized Honda dealerships nationwide.

New Honda CEO shares his vision for the future

The new President & CEO of Honda Motor Co., Takahiro Hachigo, recently unveiled his future vision for the company. He highlighted two themes that the new 'Team Honda' will pursue: (1) advancement of the six-region global operation structure; and (2) continuous development of products unique to Honda and delivering them to customers around the world.

Honda employs a unique matrix management structure, under which each region has built up their own production capacity and established sales, development, and purchasing functions. This has made it possible for each region to develop exclusive models for their region. As the next step, to demonstrate the advancement of the six-region structure, operational functions of the global headquarters will be enhanced, to strongly promote mutually complimentary inter-regional relationships. For example, the next generation of Civic 5-door will be supplied from Europe to other regions, whereas the next generation CR-V will be supplied from Canada to Europe.

Honda will also begin production of the Honda Accord this month in Nigeria (with planned annual production capacity of 1,000 units.). This is the first time Honda will assemble automobiles in Africa.

Hachigo stated that "Honda will continue to be firmly committed to the creation of 'challenging products' unique to Honda." As an example of this commitment, in the area of automobile products, the next generation Civic will be equipped with a new platform and downsized turbo engine. Furthermore, core global Honda models, CR-V and Accord, will undergo full model changes in the future to make them more attractive vehicles that feature more new technologies, higher competitiveness, and innovative designs.

Honda will strive to begin sales in Japan of the next-generation successor to the FCX Clarity before the end of Honda's current fiscal year (ending March 31, 2016). The company will also be evolving the next generation of mobility products to use electricity as a core technology.

In the area of motorcycles, the CRF1000L, a dual-purpose model, is scheduled to be introduced to the European market at the end of 2015 and then in Japan and North America. This is the embodiment of a 'challenging product' that is unique to Honda.

Honda has also been continuing its research and development of a Walking Assist Device which supports walking for people with weakened leg strength. Hachigo asserted that Honda is striving to commercialize this product before the end of this year.

Under Hachigo's guidance, Honda will realize a 30 year-long dream by taking mobility to the skies. Honda will begin customer delivery of its unique HF120 jet engine and the new light business aircraft, the HondaJet, featuring its revolutionary over-the-wing jet engines.



"What drives me forward with my fellow Honda associates is 'The Power of Dreams.' Driven by The Power of Dreams, Team Honda will keep moving forward with the goal to share joys with customers all around the world."

These Honda's products have always been generated "at the spot." Honda's strength is that team/project members share one goal and take on challenges and attain high targets. Hachigo stated that his role is to further strengthen this bottom-up environment where teams "at the spot" can take action based on their own initiatives, and that the goal of Team Honda is to have a strong bond with

customers through challenging products created by such teams "at the spot."

Hachigo concluded, "What drives me forwards with my fellow Honda associates is 'The Power of Dreams.' Driven by The Power of Dreams, Team Honda will keep moving forward with the goal to share joys with customers all around the world."

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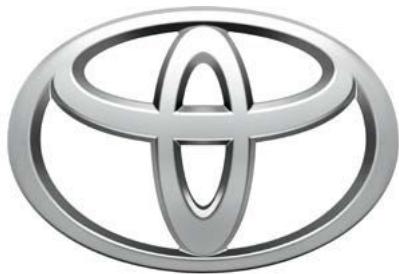


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Toyota posts strong sales in first semester



TOYOTA

Toyota Motor Philippines, Inc., the best selling automotive brand in the country today, saw another banner month having sold 9,923 units in June 2015. The brand capped off the first half of the year moving 57,717 units, registering a year-

to-date growth of 19 percent versus last year. Its Passenger Car (PC) and Commercial Vehicle (CV) sales tally at 23,804 and 33,913 units respectively. The Toyota Vios and Fortuner still lead the personal car and commercial vehicle segments in the market today. The Vios has sold 14,878 units, while the Fortuner, on the other hand, has registered a total of 8,744 units sold.

In a statement, TMP president Michinobu Sugata said, "Our first semester performance proved to be encouraging as Toyota's sales continue to increase with the second quarter growing by 7 percent versus

Quarter 1 of 2015 due to the high demand of new vehicles over the summer season. As we enter the second half of the year, our priority as a brand is to remain steadfast to our customers' needs such as providing the best deals we can offer, making

it easier for Filipinos to own a Toyota. An example of this is that we have extended Toyota's Mid-Year Madness promo until July 31 giving more opportunity for customers to drive home a brand new Toyota with its exciting deals and easy-to-own payment options."

Sugata also remarked that amidst the company's rapid growth in sales, Toyota puts equal focus on customer service. "We are grateful that our sales continue to grow due to the high demand in the market. Just last April, we breached the 1 million sales mark, a first in the automotive industry. Having said this, it steers us to put more value in our customer service assuring our customers that each vehicle we sell is a promise of a Toyota Ownership Experience. Likewise, with 46 dealerships nationwide to cater to the growing market, the public can expect more to open within the year. This expansion will allow more accessibility and convenience providing customers with renowned quality products and services Toyota can offer."

Suzuki launches the all-new Celerio

Suzuki Philippines launched the all-new Suzuki Celerio, the brand's entry in the highly competitive sub-compact car segment.

Suzuki Philippines president Hiroshi Suzuki shared, "We are very excited to introduce our A+ compact to the Filipino market. With its superior design, best-in-class luggage capacity, superb ease of driving, and outstanding fuel efficiency, we are confident that the all-new Suzuki Celerio is set to be the new standard in this segment."

The all-new Celerio features the A+ compact aesthetic philosophy that builds on the strengths

of a compact car while managing to defy the limitations associated with a small body. The "small on the outside, big in the inside" idea lives through the Celerio with its impressive interior space and luggage capacity. Dynamic and easily maneuverable, the Celerio also features a longer body and wheelbase, a wider front and rear tread, and larger headroom.

The all-new Celerio still sports a K10B three-cylinder engine that outputs a maximum 67hp @ 6000rpm and 90Nm of torque @ 3500rpm for excellent fuel efficiency.

The Celerio will be available with both manual (PHP 507,000) and Continuous Variable Transmission (PHP 542,000) gear boxes.

Interested customers can already head to their nearest Suzuki dealership to preview the all-new Celerio, and if it tickles their fancy, make an early reservation which entitles them to a PHP 20,000 discount.

For more information about Suzuki Philippines and the all-new Suzuki Celerio, visit www.suzuki.com.ph.





Stay ahead with Shell V-Power Nitro+ premium fuels

Words by Mika Fernandez-David

Because optimal fuel efficiency is only achieved when man and machine work hand in hand and perform at their best, keeping our vehicles in tip-top shape is something every vehicle owner should strive for. Wouldn't it be great if the fuel we used gave us one less thing to worry about? Sharing the passion of motorists to protect their vehicles, Pilipinas Shell launched their "Stay Ahead" campaign for its premium performance fuel line, Shell V-Power Nitro+.

"In our thrust to continue bringing exciting drives on the road, we at Shell, believe that maintenance and performance go hand in hand. Through the Shell V-Power Nitro+ "Stay Ahead" campaign, we aim to help motorists win against the double threats of gunk and corrosion which hinder their vehicles from performing at its best," said Pilipinas Shell vice president for retail, Anthony Lawrence Yam.

Win on all terrains

To kick off the campaign, Shell, in partnership with Ford Philippines, held the Shell V-Power Nitro+ Win on all Terrains Media Drive to further educate the participants on how their premium line of fuels help fight gunk and corrosion. The different terrains and road conditions included in the event represented the elements that cause performance degradation, and showcased how their line of fuels help protect your engines from it.

From BGC in Taguig, the teams drove northward with Ford Focus Titanium and Sport variants filled with Shell V-Power Nitro+ Gasoline. Pit stops along the way tested the participants' engine know-how, with every correct answer earning points for their teams.

Upon reaching Clark, we moved on to the next activity that required us to do some off-roading. In torrential rain, aboard Ford Ranger 4x4

Wildtraks powered by Shell V-Power Nitro+ Diesel, we drove through the lahar-filled riverbeds of Pampanga's Sacobia River. The rough terrain (and the incidental heavy downpour) symbolized the unwanted threats that hinder engines from performing their best, while the "molecules" collected at each checkpoint denoted the detergent molecules found in the fuels that work to prevent the gunk build-up.

The final activity was located at the Clark International Speedway, with no less than a limited-edition 50th anniversary Ford Mustang GT Premium running on Shell V-Power Nitro+ Racing as our steed (see what I did there? Haha). The track was modified with obstacles that singled-out elements such as moisture and air that can cause engine corrosion, and exhibited their effects on the engine's fuel systems.

Winning against gunk and corrosion

Equipped with a borescope and magnifying glasses to inspect fuel nozzles, Shell Fuels scientist Mae Ascan demonstrated to the group how gunk and corrosion is detrimental to an engine's performance. "Gunk is sponge-like in nature and can absorb some of the fuel that has been injected in engine thereby affecting the responsiveness of your vehicle. This is why

Shell V-Power Nitro+ fuels are formulated with powerful cleaning agents that prevent and remove performance-robbing engine deposits."

"The second threat to engine performance is corrosion. Taking various forms, engine corrosion can occur with the exposure of metal parts to moisture, air and other elements," she added.

"Shell V-Power Nitro+ fuels contain anti-corrosion components designed to form a protective film on metal surfaces. This helps reduce corrosion tendency by protecting the precision fuel system components," she concluded. As per their testing, Ascan claims that results can be noticed as immediate as the first fuel tank fill up.

As of the moment, all three variants of Shell V-Power Nitro+ are still rated to be Euro-2 compliant, but should be ready by the government mandated deadline of January 1, 2016 for Euro-4 compliance.

The term Euro-4 refers to the acceptable emission levels of vehicles as set by the European Union. To comply with this, both diesel and gasoline fuels must have a maximum of 50 parts per million (ppm) of sulfur, as supposed to the 500ppm allowed for the Euro-2 rating. Lower sulfur levels in fuels lead to reduced emissions of particulate matter that is harmful when inhaled. In gasoline, the Benzene and aromatics levels have also been reduced.

For more information on Shell V-Power Nitro+ and the "Stay Ahead" campaign, log-on to www.shell.com.ph.





Takashi Iwatsuki, managing officer and executive general manager of Suzuki Motor Corporation, handing one of the awards to Norminio Mojica, managing director and treasurer of Suzuki Philippines.

Suzuki Philippines has been recognized three times by their parent company, Suzuki Motor Corporation, during the 2014 Suzuki After Sales Awarding. Suzuki stakeholders all over the world flocked to the Radisson Blu Plaza in Bangkok, Thailand last June 15, 2015, to witness the ceremony which rewards Suzuki's dedication to top-notch products and customer relations.

Team Suzuki Pilipinas nails first podium finish

Team Suzuki Pilipinas came to play during the third round of the Suzuki Asian Challenge (SAC) of the Asia Road Racing Championship (ARRC), coming away with their first-ever podium win.

The race was held at the Suzuka International Circuit last July 4 to 5, and was a home race for the brand as well as SAC producer and manager, Yukio Kagayama.

The already difficult track became even more challenging as rain frequented the two-day race. Despite the odds, Team Suzuki Pilipinas managed to lock themselves in the 9th (Enzo Rellosa), 11th (April King Mascardo), and 15th (Mario Borbon) grid positions after the qualifiers. During Race 1, Mascardo was able to secure the third position with a time of 1'6.30.638; Borbon came in fifth clocking in at 1'6.43.589; and Rellosa was sixth with a time of 1'6.43.808. Unfortunately, five of the 17 participants were taken out by the slick course.

Though Race 2 suffered the same conditions, the Philippine team was able to finish with better times. Borbon clocked 1'5.34.398 and Mascardo finished the race a few milliseconds behind at 1'5.36.695. Rellosa however was taken out of the race by another crashing rider.

"My podium finish was a surprise for me. I was just focused on the race and just giving it my all and then I was already there on the third spot. I'm so overwhelmed!" April King Mascardo shared.

"This success is very meaningful to the team. Suzuka is one of the most difficult tracks in the world and our boys did well. Our win only showed that we can do it, that we can race alongside stronger teams from other countries. The team is more enthused to do better and we are excited on the next leg," said Suzuki Philippines Racing specialist Noel Villapando.

Suzuki Philippines wins three Global Awards for Excellence

The Suzuki Philippines team was honored with a First Place Ranking for Training, First Place Ranking for Customer Relationship Management, and Second Place Ranking for Product Quality. The local arm bested 61 other Suzuki Automobile distributors for the coveted titles.

"These awards are a testament to Suzuki's dedication to the Philippine auto market, and our commitment to deliver only the best products and services to our Filipino customers," said Suzuki Philippines president Hiroshi Suzuki. "Receiving such an honor serves as a challenge for Suzuki Philippines to continuously improve and perform even better in the future," he added.

The Customer Relationship Management award commends the performance of Suzuki companies branches in Japan, Indonesia, and India.

in terms of availability of customer service offices, the record of customer feedback and complaints, the presence of a database of customer inquiries, availability of proper staff training for customer service personnel and representatives, and the prompt and professional response to customer letters sent to Suzuki Motor Corporation. The Suzuki Philippines team was the only branch which met all the awards' criteria.

Meanwhile, the First Place Ranking for Training was shared with 13 other Suzuki subsidiaries. It emphasizes the importance and execution of the company's training programs. Lastly, seven other Suzuki auxiliaries got the Second Place Ranking for Product Quality, lauding their industrious filing of well-written and accurate Field Technical Information Reports submitted to main Suzuki Motor Corporation branches in Japan, Indonesia, and India.

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Suzuki Swift: Top Choice for Top Players

For Filipino millennials, “busy” is more than an adjective—it is now a way of life meant to be enjoyed and pursued with fervor. They are eager to combine their passions with their responsibilities, resulting to a long to-do list for even the simplest day.

No wonder why the high-flying cager Kiefer Ravena chose the Suzuki Swift to be his daily driving partner. With a day-to-day schedule filled with athletic and academic activities, Kiefer needs a car that performs like he does on the hardecourt—dependable, consistent, and constantly on the pursuit of excellence.

The Suzuki Swift perfectly matches the active stride of today’s young urbanites. Now equipped with a powerful 1.2-liter, four-cylinder VVT engine, versatile carrying capacity, multiple storage spaces, 15-inch alloy wheels, premium interiors, and a bold, stylish design, this impressive compact car addresses the demands of modern urban life and more.



**07:00 – 08:30
Day Starts**

Kiefer begins his day early, sacrificing an hour or so of sleep to prepare his mind and body for the rest of the day. “It’s important that I get to eat breakfast, go over the things I need to do, and envision the day as going as smoothly as possible,” says the 21-year-old star cager. He emphasizes the importance of beginning the day already inside a “winning mindspace.” Kiefer goes through his own set of morning rituals to be mentally ready to deal with any challenge thrown his way.

Driving his Suzuki Swift every day helps Kiefer sustain his mental preparedness throughout the morning. “Worrying about the car’s performance is a thought I don’t need,” he says. “With my dependable Swift, everything is smooth and actually relaxing. It’s a good thing, because I can’t afford to be distracted this early in the day.”



**11:30 – 13:00
Lunch**

Other students take the word “break” in “lunch break” seriously, but Kiefer remains on fire. For lunch, he typically goes over his class notes or meet with his classmates for a group project. Kiefer can really apply his teamwork skills on and off the court!

“Getting people together to discuss our class concerns and tasks over lunch is truly a “break” for me,” says Kiefer. They usually head over to Kiefer’s usual hangout near his school in his compact Swift, perfect for the area’s notoriously tight parking spaces during lunchtime.

“I also like to do assignments or read handouts during lunch break,” he adds. “It’s a perfect time for a bit of solitude to refocus on what needs to be done in the afternoon.”

**09:00 – 11:30
Class Time**

Though one of the finest athletes of his generation, Kiefer doesn’t slack off in his academic performance.

He employs the values of his athletic training passionately in his academic life, too.

“Student athletes are expected to perform well on the court and in class,” he says. “That challenges me to strive to be excellent in both fields.” Kiefer, a Communications Technology Management major, takes his studies seriously as he does basketball. He shows up to class prepared, right down to textbooks, handouts, and other class materials, as well as his head “in the game” for rigorous subjects that demand intense focus and critical thinking skills.

“It’s great that the Swift has versatile carrying capacity and a lot of storage spaces to hold my school stuff. I hate forgetting things at home whenever I need them for class,” Kiefer adds. The Swift’s hatchback and backseats are perfect for creating ideal storage solutions for gym bags, athletic equipment, heavy books, delicate class projects, and more.

**13:30 – 16:30
Boxing Training**

After lunch and friendly conversations, Kiefer typically heads out for a bout of boxing before basketball training. Like many star athletes, Kiefer always looks out for activities that complement his basketball training for consistently excellent performance. “Boxing helps me maintain core and stance balance,” he says. “It’s very helpful in full-body training that comes very handy in the court.”

He keeps a separate gym bag for his boxing needs in the car. “If it’s not already obvious, I like being prepared,” Kiefer says with a laugh. “I think my Swift is the perfect match for this trait. There’s always a place to stash something I might need.”



**17:00 – 20:00
Basketball Training**

“In the afternoons, I have to return to campus for basketball training,” says Kiefer. “Before, this used to be a problem because the campus parking tends to be tight at this time, and I have to lug around bags from one part of my school to the other.” With his Suzuki Swift, getting to team practice is not only quick and easy, but also convenient and comfortable.

His afternoon “appointment” with the rest of the team is something that Kiefer considers to be the highlight of his day. “Basketball is my true passion,” he says with a smile. “I look forward to being in this gym every day and spending hours perfecting the team’s game.”

Even with his numerous achievements in collegiate basketball, including winning Rookie of the Year honors, breaking score records, and being named King Eagle and MVP, Kiefer still remains extremely fascinated with the sport. “It’s like there’s something new to discover every day.”

At the end of the training session, he smiles shyly as he loads his bags in his Suzuki Swift. “This car is really instrumental in allowing me to focus on my passion. It’s perfect for fast-paced days like mine.”



**20:30
Day Ends**

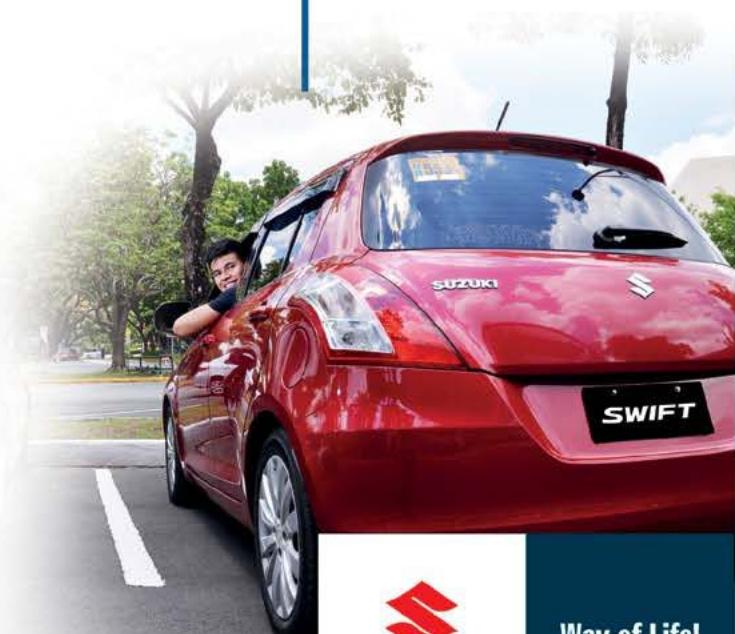
Later in the evening, Kiefer is still energetic for his drive home. “I really love driving this car,” he says. “I’ll probably grow tired of my Swift when I get tired of basketball, which is never,” he adds with a laugh.

Kiefer is also amazed with the built-in fog lamps, which he gamely turns on for “demo” purposes. “See! You can really see better with these babies.” This feature makes for clear and safe driving in the evenings, especially in parts of the metro where roads are wide and streetlights offer inadequate lighting.

When he gets home, Kiefer will rest a bit, leisurely preparing for another busy day ahead before calling it a night.

An Easy, Enjoyable Day with the Suzuki Swift

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ASC Reference Code S020P070215N



Automotive Technology

Words by Mika Fernandez-David

Depending on which era you were born in, Fred Flintstone's car could have been one of your first recognizable automobiles. His car gave the term "self-propelled" a whole new meaning, being powered by his own two feet.

According to some accounts, the first automobile ever built didn't even have space for a driver, much less for passengers. Built in 1672 and measuring only 65 centimeters long, Belgian Ferdinand Verbiest built and gifted the Chinese Emperor Kangxi a steam-propelled trolley that may have been the first working steam-powered vehicle.

In France, almost a century later, in 1768, Nicolas-Joseph Cugnot was credited to have built the first steam-powered car that was actually capable of transporting humans. Another significant milestone came in 1807 when Francois Issac de Rivaz designed the first hydrogen powered internal combustion engine.

It would take almost 80 years before the first patents for self-propelled vehicles were filed in Europe. In 1884, France saw the first patent issued for an internal-combustion engine to drive the Delamar-Doutteville steam car, and two years later, Carl Benz patented the world's first practical motorized car in Germany.

Although many automotive firsts came from Europe, it was American Henry Ford who revolutionized the industry by introducing the assembly line that enabled the mass production of affordable vehicles. The Ford Model T was released in 1908, and the industry was never the same again. And although electricity and steam were once the preferred means of propulsion, advances in the internal combustion engine, compounded by its convenience and affordability, led to the mainstreaming of the fossil fuel fed engines we use today.

So where we are now?

Over a century later, and with the advancements in technology and the economies of scale working for the benefit of the consumers, we finally have a better understanding of the workings of the engine. Engines are engineered and re-engineered, tweaked, and built from the ground up to suit the specs/requirements of the manufacturers. Having a better understanding of how things work has led to improvements not only structurally and mechanically, but also with regard to user experience. But despite the innovations in the different fields, our vehicles are still powered by the same type of engines as the old, only better.

Safety has always been, and always will be a major concern for manufacturers and consumers. Of the many features, the core safety features have been

identified: cabin integrity; crumple zones that absorb impact; passenger restraints and airbags; as well as ABS and EBD that is almost standard in all vehicles. And like other technologies, these are constantly being improved on. And while other driver assist systems are now made available, they, unfortunately, fall under the "nice to have" category, and are limited to premium marques and makes because of cost implications.

In this digital world we live in, connectivity is king. Whether via Bluetooth technology or by using the various in-car ports and plugs, we are able to connect our devices to our vehicles, seamlessly bringing our tech lifestyle into our cars. Taking it a step further, some vehicles are already equipped with operating systems that connect to the Internet. While this enables many features that can make life easier for humans via the Internet of Things, it also poses many security vulnerabilities, which we might not be ready for yet.

Because climate change and the depletion of natural resources is a real thing, there has been a resurgence in the popularity of alternatively powered vehicles. While this greener and more sustainable solution still hasn't gained much ground in terms of market share because of pricing and the lack of infrastructure to support these kinds of vehicles, many manufacturers have their own development teams working on their own versions.

These kinds of vehicles that are already available in some markets can be classified into four categories: the Hybrids that have a conventional engine plus an electric motor; Plug-in Hybrids that have rechargeable batteries aside from their engines; Hydrogen cars that fill-up with compressed hydrogen instead of gasoline, which, when mixed with air, produces electricity that powers the vehicle; and last but not the least, Electric vehicles that need to be plugged in to recharge.

Looking ahead

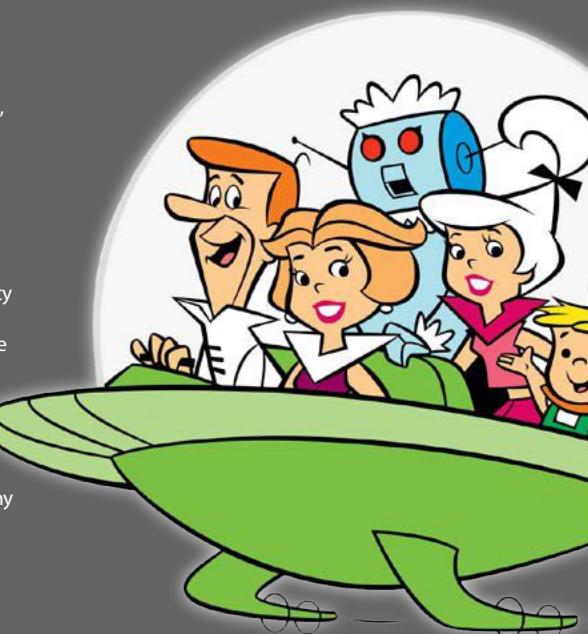
Wouldn't it be awesome if we had augmented reality dashboards in our vehicles? Think Google Glass technology on our windshields, and you'll realize we aren't really that far off.

Many manufacturers have been using Heads Up Displays (HUDs) since way back, and they have also been using it on fighter planes. And even though it would take a bit of getting used to, think of the many possibilities that will be opened up by bringing this technology into mainstream consumer cars.

Google has been studying their fleet of unmanned cars for quite some time now, with making roads safer and more efficient being the end goal. By taking away driver error, they predict the number of accidents to go down drastically. These vehicles are able to assess situations, and ready the vehicles for any eventualities like sudden braking to avoid collisions. And while this technology is still far from perfect and still carries a hefty price, several states in the US have already amended their laws to allow these types of vehicles.

Who hasn't dreamed of flying cars? The futuristic shows of our childhood always featured some form of flying cars, and it seemed like the logical progression. The Jetsons never had to contend with traffic, and they really looked out of this world every time they traveled. Seriously, though, designs for flying cars that fit in regular garages have already surfaced, and it seems like it's only a matter of time before we will see this elusive dream to fruition.

While pundits say that the internal combustion engines still had its best days ahead of it, it is still a century-old technology that's begging for a breakthrough. Fossil fuel engines will inevitably give way to cleaner and greener technology, with prices of fuel cells or whatever they will call the tech eventually hitting the mainstream. Tesla's willingness to share their technology is a move in the right direction to speed things up, because the sooner we get things started, the better it will be for our planet.





Taal Photowalk

with RV Mitra and the WD My Passport Wireless

Words and Photos by Chris Noel Hidalgo
Additional Photos from WD Press

Last June 23, WD took a number of media personnel to the scenic Taal Volcano in Batangas to test out the convenient features of the WD My Passport Wireless while photowalking along one of the Philippines' most active craters. There to help us refine our photography skills while doling out some pretty impressive camera tricks himself was renowned wedding and lifestyle photographer, as well as WD brand ambassador, RV Mitra.

We started the day pretty early, leaving TriNoMa at 6:10AM amidst torrential rain and weekday traffic. After making it through Manila's two-, four-, and six-wheeled gauntlet, we had a breakfast stopover along SLEX where we were introduced to Mitra and given an itinerary briefing. Luckily, the sun came out while we were eating—it would've been a huge suck trekking through Volcano Island wet and freezing. After that pick-me-up, we were on the road again, zooming past highways, pineapple fields, and winding roads to arrive at Talisay's Tropical Resort, our lakeside jump off point. Strapping on our life vests, we hopped aboard the Poseidon for a 20-ish minute boat ride towards the main island.

Reaching land, we were quickly ushered to an armada of horses waiting to take us to the summit. While the entire gang got a first-hand taste of what being a cowboy is like, I think us gentlemen had the full experience. My horse's impatient stride coupled with the extremely

rough jungle terrain had me bouncing up and down more than expected. The family jewels were not pleased, and now I know why the buckaroo walk is stereotyped the way it is, but I digress.

It was around high noon by the time we reached the end of the trail. Though it was scorching hot, the hardcore photowalkers carried on with RV Mitra's crash course on portraiture. He brought with him a lovely model that strutted to his every instruction with a big smile despite the punishing sun. After a few hundred shutter clicks from everyone, we made our way down the summit, across the lake, and aboard the van to catch a late lunch at Pamana Restaurant in Tagaytay.

This leg of the trip saw the My Passport Wireless showing off its easy to use and extremely handy features such as Wi-Fi enabled storage, one-click SD card backups, wireless media streaming, and signal repeater capability. It basically allows you to have tons of storage on the go without the hassle of tangled wires. It does come with a high-

speed USB 3.0 port though for when you need to quickly transfer large amounts of data.

The drive allows up to eight devices to be simultaneously connected and is able to last around five to 20 hours depending on use. It is available in 500GB, 1TB, and 2TB models for all the photos, movies, music, and files you need to store. Data on the My Passport Wireless can be accessed both through computers and through the WD My Cloud mobile app for iOS and Android devices.

WD was kind enough to award one 1TB My Passport Wireless and one 2TB My Passport Wireless to the two people whose photos managed to impress RV Mitra. Those who didn't win can alternatively buy the device at PHP 7,950, PHP 9,590, and PHP 11,990 for the 500GB, 1TB, and 2TB units, respectively. If you're into outdoor photography or videography and you don't want to lug around a laptop with you, the My Passport Wireless will definitely prove to be a boon.

If you're into outdoor photography or videography and you don't want to lug around a laptop with you, the My Passport Wireless will definitely prove to be a boon.





IMAGE SENSORS

Size does matter

Words by Chris Noel Hidalgo

"It's not the size of the boat, it's the motion of the ocean," they said. "That 16MP phone can take better pictures than a 12MP DSLR," they said. "Maybe you're taking the picture wrong," they said when I pointed out the differences in similarly framed scenes captured from a phone and a full-blown camera.

In last month's *Snapshots* article, we talked about how megapixels don't matter as much as you think; that they're the equivalent of stitches in your pants' crotch—as long as there's enough in there to satisfactorily hold everything together, you wouldn't care how many there actually are. When working with the bare minimum though, what you should care about is the quality of the thread used. What use are a gazillion stitches if the threads snap faster than fingers at a jazz club?

Sensory Overload

Bad analogy aside, as long as your megapixels (stitches) live close to the current 12MP industry standard, the quality of the image sensor (the threads) will be a huge dictator of your photos' quality (your, er, pants). And when I say sensor quality, I mean physical size.

Today's digital image sensors are the successors to the negative films of old, capturing light without the need for physical prints. Just like analogs, modern sensors come in different shapes, sizes, and formats. The sizes of both imaging media also correlate to the dynamic range, detail, and overall quality of their outputs.

It makes sense that DSLRs are able to house large sensors thanks to their bulky frames; compact cameras are equipped with smaller than average ones; and phones can only hold tiny ones relative to their bodies. Whatever the physical dimension though, sensors all come with photosites or light-capturing diodes that convert photons into electrons, and through some babbity bobbity boo, into a digital image. Think of them as the tangible equivalent of pixels.

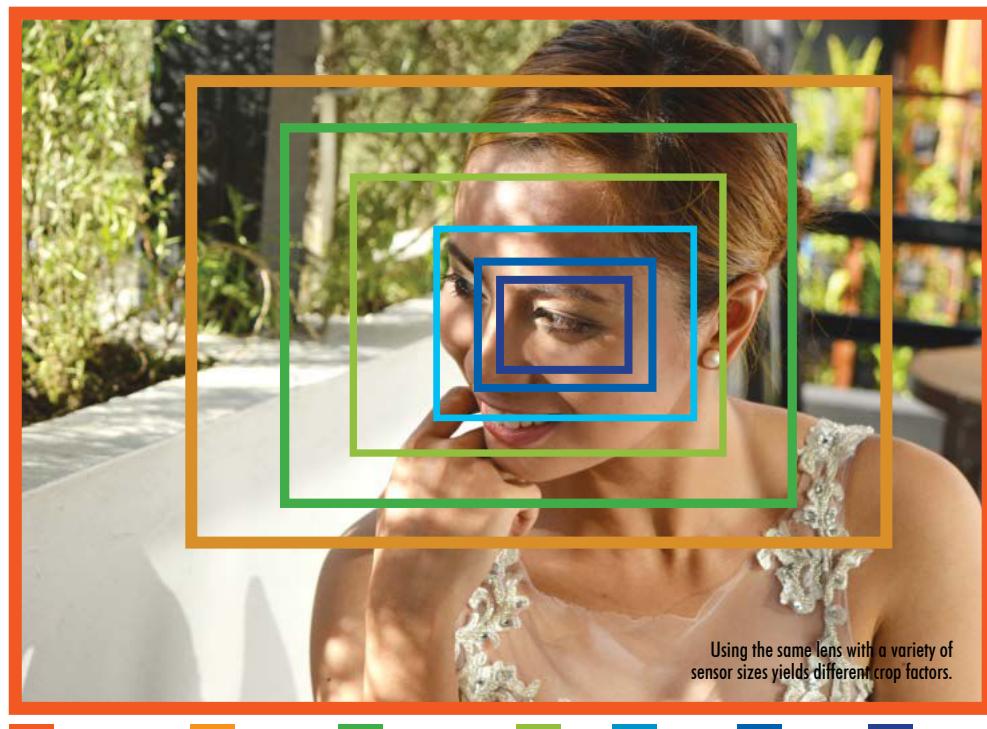
Pixel Rain

To understand why bigger sensors are better, let's use the old industry analogy known as pixel rain. Think of your image as raindrops and your photosites as cups/buckets. You can collect more rain using a big bucket as opposed to a small cup, and while you could cram a lot of small cups together to try and capture the same amount of rain as the bucket, you'll inevitably have gaps between the cups. It also wouldn't be as efficient as having just one large basin.

That's essentially why large-format cameras can churn out better photos than similarly MP'ed but smaller snappers. The small photosites aboard phone and point-and-shoot sensors mean that the detail that's supposed to be in the shot are lost and becomes image noise.

Too big or not too big? That is the question

As a staple on DSLRs and other full frame devices, large sensors carry baggage, both good and bad, that significantly affects user experience. Besides the added bulk, one affected factor is price. Being niched products, they don't have a market that's big enough to drive prices down. They also give you quite the workout as they're a bit hefty!



Full Frame APS-C MFT 4/3" 1" 2/3" 1/2.3" 1/3.2"

Sensor size also affects how much of the actual scene the camera is able to take in. This is called the crop factor and is determined in relation to what the field of view would look like compared to a full frame camera.

The smaller your sensor, the more you crop into a scene, and the wider the lens you have to use in order to compensate.

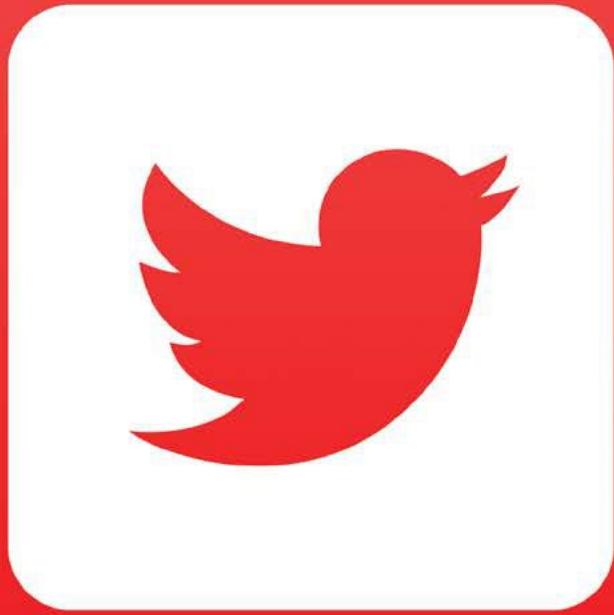
Other things affected by sensor size include lens compatibility, depth of field, noise levels, color detail, and sharpness—these seemingly better on large format versus small format sensors.

Does this mean you should go out and buy the biggest camera heart you can find? Not really. Unless you're a professional photographer or hardcore photography buff, mainstream consumer products will be more than enough for everyday use, from casual snaps to formal galas. If you live and die by the shutter, though, it wouldn't hurt to get the largest sensor you can afford.



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Restored Filipino films share the big screen with international classics

Words by Genevieve Maglaya

One year, five years, fifty years—it doesn't matter how many years pass. Some movies just never go out of style. With the opening of this year's World Premieres Film Festival Philippines (WPFF) at the Premiere Cinema of the SM Mall of Asia on June 24, came a celebration for Philippine cinema as it reached a milestone with the newly restored film of the late National Artist for Film Lino Brocka.

His magnum opus *Insiang* was the first Philippine film to be shown at the Cannes Film Festival in 1978. This year, that same film opened the WPFF in the festival's revered Classics section, alongside six other timeless films restored by Martin Scorsese's The Film Foundation/World Cinema Project and the L'Immagine Ritrovata, a film restoration laboratory in Bologna, Italy.

The Film Foundation (TFF) is a nonprofit organization established in 1990 by world-renowned filmmaker Martin Scorsese, along with Woody Allen, Robert Altman, Francis Ford Coppola, Clint Eastwood, Stanley Kubrick, George Lucas, Sydney Pollack, Robert Redford, and Steven Spielberg to protect and preserve motion picture history.

According to its official website, TFF, in partnership with archives and studios, has helped restore nearly 700 films which then are made accessible to the public through programming at museums, educational institutions, and festivals around the world. Its World Cinema Project has restored 25 films from 19 different countries "representing the rich diversity of world cinema."

Insiang executive producer Ruby Tiong Tan said in a news release that she decided to turn over the film to the National Archives of the Philippines (NFAP), under the auspices of the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), because she wanted it to become a Philippine cultural heritage product.

"If I have a masterpiece, should I just hang it in my home, only for myself to enjoy? No, I should put that masterpiece in the museum, in the National Film Archive, for the public to enjoy," Tan said.

Now that *Insiang* is state-owned, FDCP believes that the Philippine premiere of the restored classic at WPFF is paving the way for the nation to make remarkable Filipino films publicly accessible.

"This is truly a cause for celebration. It affirms the country's efforts to preserve our audiovisual heritage. Brocka's films have proven to be at par

A PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS FILIPINO



AFTER THE CURFEW (1955) (IMAGES COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE)

INSIANG



L TO R RUEL VERNAL AS DADO, HILDA KORONEL AS INSIANG, AND MONA LISA AS TONIA - SOURCE WWW.FDCPH

NIDHAYANA



POMEGRANATES



with the world's pantheon of cinema classics that deserve to be celebrated to this day," FDCP chairman Briccio Santos said in the news release.

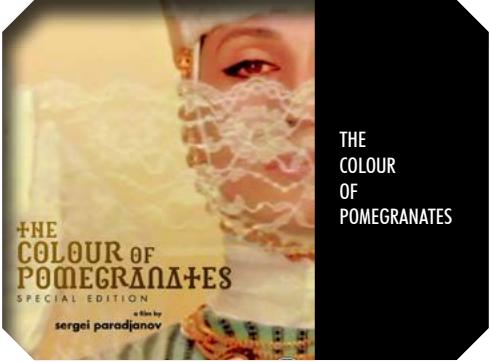
Insiang is a stand-out film of Brocka's social realist cinema which bravely critiqued the morals and standards of living of Filipinos in the slum areas during the Martial Law era. It is particularly about the struggling relationship of a mother and daughter who live in Manila's most notorious slum, Tondo. Just when they think they've had enough family problems, they are caught in a treacherous love triangle with a man of bad intentions.

Brocka once said of his film, "*Insiang* is, first and foremost, a character analysis: a young woman raised in a miserable neighborhood. I need this character to recreate the 'violence' stemming from

urban overpopulation, to show the annihilation of a human being, the loss of human dignity caused by the physical and social environment and to stress the need (for) changes (to) these life conditions."

Brocka's work has striking qualities that have greatly influenced not only the local film scene and Filipino viewers but the international community as well. During the Martial law era, the movie created such a buzz when Philippine censors were keen to hide the miserable conditions the Manila in the film showed. But this all the more pushed people to rally for its release to the Cannes Film Festival, and eventually, to the rest of the world.

Insiang isn't the only Filipino film with timeless qualities to grace the line-up of classics at WPFF.



A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino directed by first-ever National Artist for Film Lamberto Avellana in 1965 and adapted from National Artist for Literature Nick Joaquin's play in 1950, was also screened at the festival.

The historical film's restoration was spearheaded by award-winning filmmaker Mike de Leon, son of *Portrait of the Artist*'s late producer Manuel de Leon, and partly funded by FDCP and NFAP. Marking its 50th anniversary, the classic premiered on April 25 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Portrait of the Artist was the first Filipino film entirely in English. It pays homage to the old, walled city of Intramuros during the time American influences flooded pre-World War II Manila, and is about the struggle of the well-

mannered Marasigan family to preserve their inherited properties and personal values, while coping with financial problems and the coming war.

The younger De Leon, in an interview with Inquirer stressed the urgency of preserving film heritage. He was saddened to say that to his knowledge, there is no longer any complete 35mm film original of any movie from that era.

"As in other works of art in other disciplines like music, painting and architecture, we have lost so much and are losing much more still," De Leon said.

However, he also expressed his hope that *Portrait of the Artist* would find an audience among today's youth despite its unsuccessful box office showing in 1965.

De Leon can bet on it because through the combined efforts of international and local organizations, old films that have contributed to the riches of world cinema are being diligently sought for and restored to their cinematic glory. Brocka's *Insiang* and Avellana's *Portrait of the Artist* now share the big screen of WPFF with international classics including Sergei Parajanov's *The Color of the Pomegranates* (1969), Usmar Ismail's *After the Curfew*, (1954), Uday Shankar's *Kalpana* (1948), Lester James Peries' *Nidhayana* (1973), and Djibril Diop Mambety's *Touki Bouki* (1973).

These revered classics have withstood the test of time with their profound and ever-relevant stories that reflect the collective memories of their people. Only through the careful and dedicated effort to preserve local and foreign cinema can we vividly remember and fully understand the journey we've been through to become the nation we are today.



"These revered classics have withstood the test of time with their profound and ever-relevant stories that reflect the collective memories of their people."



APPLE MUSIC

Words by Mia Carisse Barrientos

Apple is an established brand in the tech world and we don't need to elaborate further on that. They are capable of producing devices that create store queues that stretch on for blocks. Apart from being a major player in the tech scene, the brand is also popular for its services and its presence in the music scene. The iPod has been a favorite choice among music lovers; while iTunes, a multimedia management service from Apple, is widely used among owners and non-owners of Apple products.

With Apple's influence in both tech and music, the brand's entrance in the emerging music streaming service scene just this recently concluded WWDC is only to be expected.

You'll get the gist of what Apple Music is just by reading its name. Described as a single, intuitive app that combines the best ways to enjoy music across your favorite devices, this music streaming service and pioneering worldwide live radio station from Apple poses itself as a platform for music fans to listen to their favourite jams, discover new content, and connect with their favorite artists anytime, anywhere.

Like any other music streaming service, Apple has collated a large and diverse collection of over 30 million songs and enlisted the expertise of music experts to create playlists for your Apple and Android devices. Yes, Android.

If you don't know where to begin, you can purchase songs from the iTunes Store or copy ripped files from your favorite album CDs. But if you'd rather start fresh, Apple Music can do the work for you. The 'For You' section serves you a fresh mix of albums, new releases, and playlists, just the way you like it. How? Whenever you listen, the service takes note of the type of music you frequent and curates a playlist according to your preferences.

Add to that, you can also make use of Siri to intelligently play you specific music like "chart toppers from the '90s," or "the number one song in January 2015."



Apple Music Radio

Beats 1 is Apple's first ever live radio station that is entirely focused on broadcasting music and music culture to over 100 countries. The 24/7 broadcast is led by DJs Zane Lowe in Los Angeles, Ebro Darden in New York, and Julie Adenuga in London.

With stations created by some of the world's finest radio DJs, you'll get access to a wide range in genres from indie rock to classical and folk to funk. And as you sign up for membership, you'll be granted the ability to skip as many songs as you like.

Share and Connect with Apple Music

Apple Music's Connect serves as an exclusive avenue where artists can share lyrics, backstage

photos, videos, or even release their latest song directly to fans. In that same way, fans can reach out to their favorite artists with the ability to comment, like, and share content via Messages, Facebook, Twitter, and email. As an added plus, artists can also respond directly to the comment you left. Now that's true connection.

Interested parties will be invited to a three-month free membership, after which a USD 9.99/month subscription fee will apply. There will also be a family plan providing service for up to six family members available for just USD 14.99/month.

Apple Music rolled out on iOS and Mac devices last June 30 while Apple TV and Android phone owners will be able to enjoy the service this fall.

The Different Faces of iPad

Words by Presy Alba

If Apple follows its fall release schedule as in past years, iOS 9 should be released by September 18. And from that date onward, Apple promises iPad owners an even better user experience.

When the iPad was first released about five years ago, it was a lightweight personal tablet that allowed users to stay connected, browse the web, and entertain themselves on the go. But because of its size and weight, it has become the most convenient device to bring along even for business.

Over the years, Apple has been very responsive to user feedback. We have seen how the iPad evolved to become the essential gadget for people on the go, loaded with many productivity tools for every activity and interest. Even with iOS 8 though, the iPad can sometimes still be unwieldy especially when it comes to multi-tasking.

With the release of iOS 9 in September, iPad users can expect so many improvements, the iPad will certainly play an even more important role in everyday life. Apple promises the enhancements to include longer battery life, better security, and better user-experience. The improvements in multi-tasking capability, will let iPad users do two different things at the same time via split-view.

The iPad has already proven to enable people to do many things. With iOS 9 expect even more enhancements in six of its most useful facets:

1 as Learning Device

Whatever your age, the iPad can be an essential learning tool. Young children can learn new concepts, letters, colors, numbers, shapes, and solve puzzles through interactive game apps like *Metamorphabet*, *Tangram* for Osmo and *Endless Numbers*.

Elementary and high school students can use the iPad as a virtual textbook library (*iBooks*) and laboratory (*Chemist App*), and college students can make use of note-taking apps like *Notability* and *Audionote* to record and document lectures; take advantage of free course materials from top tier universities through the *Coursera* app and other learning tools available from the App Store.

Learn new languages, new skills, expand your knowledge—there's an app that will help you widen your perspective.

2 as Personal Assistant

Maximize use of Siri by asking her to schedule meetings, set appointments, create tasks, and remind you to do things.

3 as Hobby Assistant

If you like to cook, the iPad will be an essential tool with apps full of recipes with step-by-step instructions. If you prefer doing home-improvements, apps like the *iHandy Carpenter* will make handyman tools including levels, ruler, protractor, etc. just a swipe away. If you like crafting, there is a wide variety of iOS apps available for every crafting activity.

4 as Travel Helper

When you travel, the iPad can be an essential device that will let you do a multitude of things. There is a whole cornucopia of apps that will make traveling less of a hassle. From your iPad you can check-in for your next flight, book your hotel, track your flight status, find directions through online and off-line maps, check public transportation routes and schedules, find a restaurant nearby, etc.



5 as Entertainment Center

Movies, videos, music, games—the iPad is an all-around entertainment center. Whatever you do to relax on your downtime, there will surely be an app for it.

6 as Business Aide

There is a wide selection of apps available that will allow you to access your bank records, keep track of your business records, document your transactions, create business collaterals—logo, stationery, brochures, etc. The iPad will also let you stay connected with suppliers and customers even when you are on the road.

Five perks of being HOOQ'd

1 The largest catalog of movies and TV entertainment of any service

Over 30,000 hours of content for your viewing pleasure

Over 1,200 Hollywood movies

Almost 10,000 Asian titles of regional content

only HOOQ allows downloads to your own device

The only platform that offers a wide selection of Pinoy content from



2 Blockbusters within easy reach

CLASSICS

Lawrence of Arabia
Funny Girl
Good Fellas

TOP GROSSERS

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2
Spider-Man
Iron Man
Captain America
Thor

MODERN TITLES

Gran Torino
Easy A
Inside Job

TV HITS

Mad Men
Friends
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Lost
Smallville

CURRENT SERIES

Scandal
Nashville
Castle
Grey's Anatomy



HOOQ is constantly bringing in titles from partner studios Warner Bros., Dreamworks Classic Media, Disney, Miramax, Captive Media, and Sony Pictures.

3 Premium local content



4 Easy access through iOS, Android, Mac and Windows

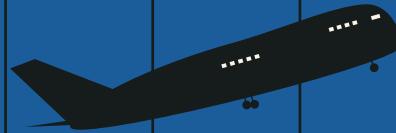


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Globe



Managing Connecting Flights

Words by Presy Alba

Traveling by plane does not always involve direct flights. Even for domestic travel, some flights originate from specific airports. For example, you'll have to fly to Manila or Cebu first in order to take a connecting flight to Tacloban. In the case of international travel, most airlines stop at designated airport hubs to manage their flight loads. This means more waiting time at the airport for the traveler.

Layover time can take anywhere from an hour to more than eight hours, so you must pack your carry-on luggage accordingly so that you can comfortably manage your waiting time at the airport.

If your layover is three hours or more, consider using a carry-on size (22 x 14 x 9 in) wheeled trolley bag so you don't have to lug your bag around the airport terminal. I suggest that you pack at least one change of clothes and toiletries in 100ml bottles, a travel towel, extra socks, sleep mask, inflatable pillow, a shawl, a jacket or light blanket to keep yourself comfortable while in flight and in transit.

Pack all your gadgets, chargers and extra batteries in your carry-on bag. Also make sure to pack all your medications and add some energy bars and a foldable water bottle that you can refill at the pre-departure terminal.

You should also have a game plan for a hassle-free trip.

1 Checking in at the airport of origin

For domestic travel with connecting flights, you should receive the boarding passes for all legs of your trip at the airport of origin. Make sure that all checked-in luggage are tagged through to your destination airport—this should be indicated in your luggage claim tag.

If your luggage claim shows the airport code of your transit airport, you will have to claim your baggage and check it in again for the next leg.

If you receive only one boarding pass, this means that you will have to claim your bags upon arrival and you will have to check-in again for the next leg.

2 Passing through immigration

If you are connecting from a domestic to an international flight, you will have to transfer to the international terminal and pass through immigration. If your checked-in luggage has been tagged through to the airport of final destination, you do not need to claim it at the transit terminals.

Before passing immigration, you will need to fill up a departure card which you will present to the immigration officer together with your passport and boarding pass.

Note: Make sure that your passport does not expire within six months of your departure or the immigration officer may disapprove your travel.



3 Waiting for your flight

Once you pass immigration, locate your flight gate and take note of your boarding time. If the flight is still hours away, you may want to explore the airport facilities, get a massage, do some shopping, or find a place to eat. Or you may want to find a quiet corner where you can relax and even sleep while waiting for your next flight. Whatever you do, make sure that you listen to announcements in case there are changes to your flight gate.



4 At the transit airport

If you have an international transit stop (e.g. Dubai for Emirates, Singapore for Singapore Air, Amsterdam for KLM), after you pass the security check, and you still have a few hours to kill, you may want to do some duty-free shopping but be aware that it is only exempt from the weight restrictions until you reach your destination airport. So make sure that any shopping you do is for small items only and buy the heavier and bulkier stuff on your return trip.

If your layover is more than five hours, approach the tourist desk and inquire about activities you can do during your layover—some airports offer free city tours and other short activities.

If your transit stop is already your entry into your destination country, you will have to pass through immigration and customs. In this case, even if your luggage has been tagged through to the airport of final destination, you will still have to claim all your bags and pass through customs, after which you can return at the drop-off so it could be loaded to your next flight.

By staying alert and checking all documents and asking questions, you can minimize travel stress and arrive at your destination with all your luggage.

Halo

Let Your Style Speak



Fit
& Savvy

1



2

Young
& Laid-back



3



4



Chic
& Handy!

5



Smooth
& hip

1. MATHEW

Sling Bag

SRP: Price starts at
PhP 550.00

2. MAXINE Sling Bag

SRP: PhP 695.00

3. MIRANDA Reversible Universal Tablet Case

SRP: Price starts at PhP 550.00

4. JEANNE Pouch

SRP: PhP 295.00

5. TRACY Laptop Bag

SRP: PhP 895.00

Power Supplies

Words by Chris Noel Hidalgo

While I was choosing the parts for my very first custom PC build (which you can read about on page 98), I followed the maxim of spending most of my money on the most critical gaming component, the graphics card. I had to budget what I had left between the other parts and being the cheapskate that I am, I initially intended to skimp on the power supply unit. I mean, it's just a box that essentially acts as a power strip, right? Nope. It's actually more than that.

PSUs can literally break your build

While it's probably one of the most boring parts of your rig, the PSU's a mean little beast. Think of it like a cat—mostly silent and indifferent but when it throws a tantrum, you'd be blind not to notice it. Besides its namesake job of supplying power to your PC's parts, the PSU also converts AC to DC, gives the parts the exact amount of juice they need, and limits how power-hungry your system can be.

If it's working fine, the PSU will be totally silent, save for the constant (in budget-oriented models) or occasional (for high-end, temperature activated models) buzz of the cooling fan. When there's something wrong though, the PSU will most likely explode in a flurry of smoke and sparks. Not only that, but it might also take some—if not all—of the parts latched onto it.

Not all PSUs are created equal

As with most things, you get what you pay for when it comes to the PSU. If you paid less than PHP 1,000 for a generic one, expect a really crappy looking gray-body-multi-colored-wires rat's nest that is just an accident waiting to happen. However, just because the one you're eyeing is quite expensive and is matte black with sleeved cables doesn't mean it would be a sure-fire performer.



For a better way of identifying quality PSUs, you should look at the unit's weight and brand. Heavier PSUs generally have better overall build quality. They also tend to carry better capacitors, bigger heat sinks, and larger fans which all translate to superior longevity. The brand should also be noted as some names have been tried and tested to be reputable. Corsair, Seasonic, EVGA, Antec, XFX, OCZ, Thermaltake, and Silverstone are just some of the marques that carry trustworthy power supplies.



Ratings War

A computer's one of the things that will likely shoot your electric bill up, but it shouldn't really hog the power it doesn't need. To ensure it's running as efficiently as possible, your power supply should be rated for 80+ efficiency. This basically means that if all your components use a total of 300W of power, the system is actually drawing 375W from the wall. Through the rating, the PSU is able to convert 80-percent of inbound power into what your rig requires. The remaining percentage is dissipated through heat.

Under the 80+ certification are the Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, and Titanium standards. These have increasingly better efficiency (82- to 94-percent) that allows you to save a significant amount of cash throughout the device's life.

Too much of a good thing?

The PSU operates best when it's between 60- to 80-percent load of its wattage rating. That being said, buying a 1500W 80+ Platinum device for a rig that will only consume a maximum of 400W is overkill as you're paying a higher initial premium. You'll also lose some efficiency, though most argue that the loss is negligible.

Going for the more capable device, however, gives you flexibility for future upgrades, whether going for a more taxing graphics card, doing SLI or Crossfire configurations, and installing more drives. The more expensive ones are also favored for their build quality, silence, and comprehensive warranty schemes.



In choosing a quality PSU, you're both saving electricity and saving yourself from the heartache of having your whole system go *kaboom!* You're also helping save the energy required in the PSU production process because you won't be heading out to buy one over and over again.

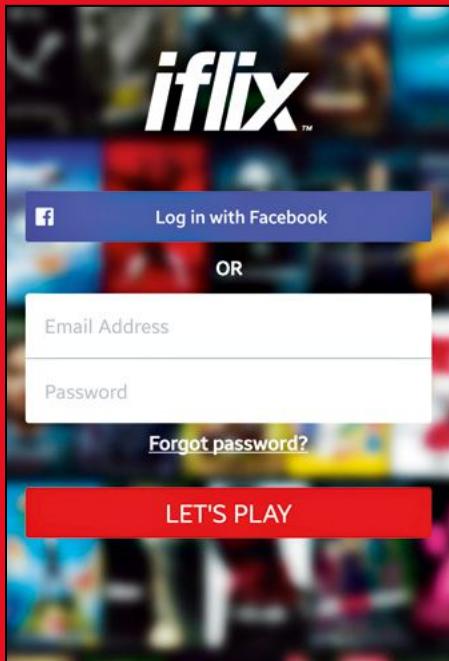


Entertainment On the Go

Words by Mia Carisse Barrientos

Let's take a look back—and ahead—at how our behavior towards consuming media has evolved over the last decade. Five, maybe ten years ago, you can almost certainly picture yourself keeping a close eye on the clock, plopped on the sofa in the family living room, waiting for your favorite show to come on your CRT TV set. Some days, you find yourself missing out as your cable package doesn't stream the network that airs the season's "talk of the town" show. Fast forward to today, the ties that bind us to our CRTs and cable TV has been cut—well not entirely as news and sports shows are pretty much still lodged in cable TV territory.

Internet TV is in. In a nutshell, this means you can catch up and watch your favorite international shows, movies, documentaries, and everything in-between across your mobile devices and smart TV, anytime, anywhere. What's more important is that we now have this service at our disposal with iflix.



What's iflix?

iflix, Southeast Asia's newest Internet TV or Subscription-Video-On-Demand (SVOD) service, is now available in the Philippines and brings with it unlimited access to thousands of hours of entertainment for its users at a monthly subscription price that won't punch a massive hole in your wallet.

This service was brought to life through a partnership between Catcha Group and Evolution Media Capital. These two heavyweights have teamed up to create an internet TV service specially targeted for the SEA region; a platform that provides access to thousands of hours of top TV shows and movies from all over the world.

If I have cable TV subscription, why should I switch? Think having flexible access to a crazy huge selection of some of the most popular shows and movies from the U.K., U.S., Hong Kong, Korea, China, Thailand, and Japan, whenever you want, wherever you want, on practically any device you own.

What do I get from the service?

To enjoy this service, you can sign up for a 30-day free trial allowing you full access to all of iflix's features and content via the app (available on the Google Play Store and Apple Store) or website iflix.com, without the hassles of having to submit credit card or payment details.

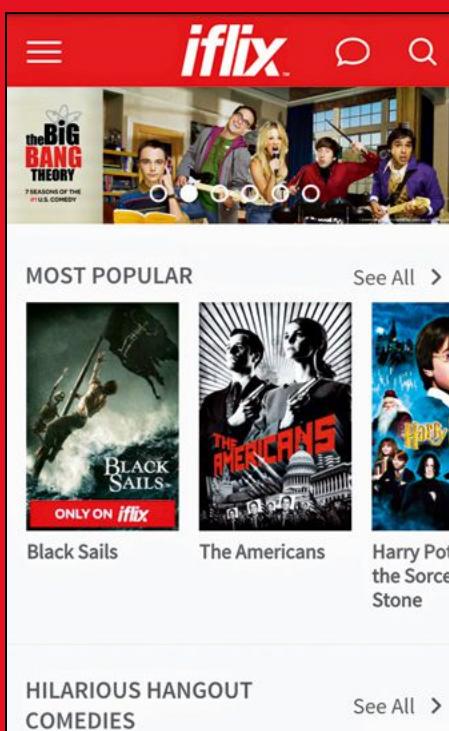
With iflix, you get:

- Unlimited access to iflix's vast library of over 10,000 hours of top quality Western, Asian, and local content;
- Access to iflix on up to five devices of your choice: phone, tablet, laptop, desktop, connected TV, or other connected device;
- Share an iflix subscription and simultaneously watch different content on two different devices at the same time for each subscription;
- From your phone, you can conveniently transfer and continue what you're watching on your other devices;
- Watch shows without getting interrupted by ads;
- Uninterrupted playback with the best possible video quality depending on the bandwidth; and
- Control content for kids.

When your free trial expires, you can choose to subscribe for unlimited access to iflix's vast content at PHP 129 per month. Annual subscriptions, on the other hand, grant you unlimited access to the service, at a 15-percent discount to their monthly rate for a total of PHP 1300 per year.

Also, iflix has recently announced acquisition of landmark content deals with the likes of The Walt Disney Company, Warner Bros, BBC Worldwide, and Twentieth Century Fox, which means more content is on the way for its subscribers.

To know more about this awesome service, like and follow [iflixph](#) on Facebook and Twitter, and [iflix.ph](#) on Instagram.





Fitness on your Wrist

Words by Mia Carisse Barrientos

Achieving optimum health is no easy task. You don't get healthy just sitting for hours, snacking on banana chips. It is a strong state of mind and body that can only be accomplished with regular exercise and a well-balanced diet. However, this generation's fast-paced lifestyle leaves no time for exercise. What we need is something that can keep up and serve its function without getting in the way of the user's diurnal activities. This is where dedicated fitness trackers come in.

In recent years, wearable technology has been making a buzz in the tech industry. Most of us might not have guessed this to be the case. This niche product first made its way into our consciousness with the rise of wristwatches that doubled as calculators. After this fad passed, wearable tech once again slinked away from public recognition. A few years and a few sci-fi works later, wearable tech is back again and is on its way to cementing itself into the consumer mainstream.

One of the few developments in this field was key to its explosion. As companies began to make wristwatches to supplement smartphone technology, an idea floated to the top of the primordial tech soup: wearable health trackers.

The concept is not entirely new, as pedometers have already been around for years. Advances in the field of tech gave companies leeway to work around this concept and throw in added features for everyone to buy into it.

In 2006, Nike collaborated with Apple to create the Nike+iPod line of products. Music and fitness work well together, in the same way the Nike+iPod enabled its consumers to maximize the use of technology to stay fit. This wireless system allows the Nike+ footwear to communicate with the iPod through a sensor built in-shoe. The footwear then transmits information such as time and distance of your run/workout, calories burned, and pace on the display of the iPod. Users also get real-time audible feedback via headphones.

This well-received collaboration gave wearables the momentum they needed. Companies saw this an opportunity to launch their own versions fitness trackers. In 2009, Fitbit launched a tracker that can be clipped on to track its users various activities, calories burned, and sleep habits that can be accessed via online tools and an app. The niche has since expanded, spawning more simple and complex variations of fitness trackers including the now widely accepted health wristbands.

We are now in the prime innings of this transition. The marketplace is now filled with fitness trackers you can comfortably wear on your wrist. Products such as the Jawbone Up, Nike+FuelBand, Garmin Vivofit, Polar Loop, and MisFit Shine, among others in a sense serve the same function but offer a slightly different experience depending on how you use it. Some present themselves as fashion pieces with subtle tech, while others are built in a way you can tell it's a fitness tracker upfront.

It's a fact that advances in technology will continue to transform the way we look at and approach fitness. But more than the help these trackers on our wrist can provide, humanity has yet to create a solution that will not just keep us healthy but will also further engage and motivate us to make the right decisions when it comes to health.

The Wonder Grass

Green leafy vegetables are potent nutrition powerhouses. That is a fact we've all been told back in grade school. In science class, we got to know that simply incorporating vividly green-colored vegetables into our diet significantly boosts overall wellness. It also provides our bodies with some of the most vital nutrients it needs, ultimately keeping us healthy. Not everyone is thrilled at the thought, though. Some cringe at the sight of leafy greens.

The recent turn to healthy living has brought many to look to organic produce. Nowadays, consuming a variety of edible grasses—dried and processed, or juiced—has become a healthy fad everybody wants to get in on.

One of the more popular grasses available for consumption is barley. This super food is loaded with vitamins, along with electrolytes and other essential minerals. Providing the body with a variety of nutrients, barley grass is also a rich source of antioxidants, amino acids, and enzymes, which rids the body off harmful toxins. Apart from providing the body protection from free radicals, it also delivers valuable fiber to the body and doesn't come loaded with detrimental fat.

It has been proven that daily intake of barley grass regulates cholesterol levels, which makes it a good supplement for losing weight. Apart from weight reduction, in a study conducted in 2010, consumption of barley grass significantly reduced blood sugar and lipid levels among

diabetic patients. Type 2 diabetes subjects were given 1.2 grams of barley grass powder for a period of 60 days. Right after the testing period, it was found that continuous intake of barley grass powder resulted in a significant decrease in FBS, HbA1c, total cholesterol (TC), low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) and non-high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (Non-HDL-C), and a significant increase in high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) levels, all of which indicate optimized health of diabetic subjects.

Where can I buy pure organic barley grass?

There are a number of drug, grocery, and retail stores that offer barley grass in powder or capsule form, what you have to be aware of is fraud. You must have a keen eye in spotting counterfeit and certified barley grass in a market like ours.

Santé Barley Max comes from pure and organic young barley grass harvested from the plains of New Zealand. Certified organic by Biogro NZ,

an international organic certification agency, consumers are guaranteed that the products are carefully cultivated and produced to maintain its various nutrients.

Sante Barley has exclusive rights to the largest and only organically certified barley grass farm in New Zealand, ensuring product quality and freshness. Sante Barley Max comes in 500mg of barley grass powder in vegetable capsules.



For more information, log on to santebarleymax.com, call +632-6673722, or like [santebarleymax](https://www.facebook.com/santebarleymax) on Facebook.

Source: Venugopal S, Iyer UM. Management of diabetic dyslipidemia with subatmospheric dehydrated barley grass powder. *Int J Green Pharm* 2010;4:251-6

Chicken Deli...

A Bacolod Original

Since 1983

CRISPY CHICKEN DELI MEALS




James Yap

P 135
lang!

KANIN
ALL YOU CAN



2PCS CHICKEN WITH SOUP AND ICED TEA

P 109
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1PC CHICKEN W/ SPAGHETTI AND ICED TEA

P 89
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1PC CHICKEN WITH SOUP AND ICED TEA

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They say there's no better way to boost one's spirits than by eating a scrumptious meal. And what meal would be complete without dessert.

Cake Avenue Bakeshop, founded in 2000, is an all-Filipino business, owned and operated by partners Feliza Salgado and Ma. Rosario Damaso and is strategically located at 78 Estrella St, cor Zodiac, Bel-air Village, Makati.

This pastry haven's specialties are custom-made cakes fit for all occasions. Customers can walk in the shop, describe their wildest pastry desires, and the able Pattissier's of Cake Avenue will turn that vision into reality. In addition to made-to-order and personalized cakes, the bakeshop also boasts a whole line of mouth-watering treats, both with and without sugar. The shop has also recently introduced a series of Gluten-free products for its health conscious consumer base.

"Our strength is in our creative ideas, personally decorating the cake ourselves, and in the fact that we have direct supervision in all the artwork being done," Cake Avenue shared.

Some of the bakeshops' clients include Filgifts.com, myAyala.com, Philregalo.com, Expressregalo.com, Ensogo, Metro deal, Save on Pinoy, among others.

To know more about Cake Avenue Bakeshop, log on to www.cakeavenuebakeshop.com or call 898-3557/552-7259.

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A change of name was imminent, leading to their rebranding to Bebe's Photo Shop and Party Needs in 1980. The party services supplier realized the increase of demand, and particular customer specifications, most notably colorful balloons, and so, Bebe's Balloons was finalized in 1990.

Companies who trusted Bebe's Balloons' to supply their party essential needs include McDonald's,

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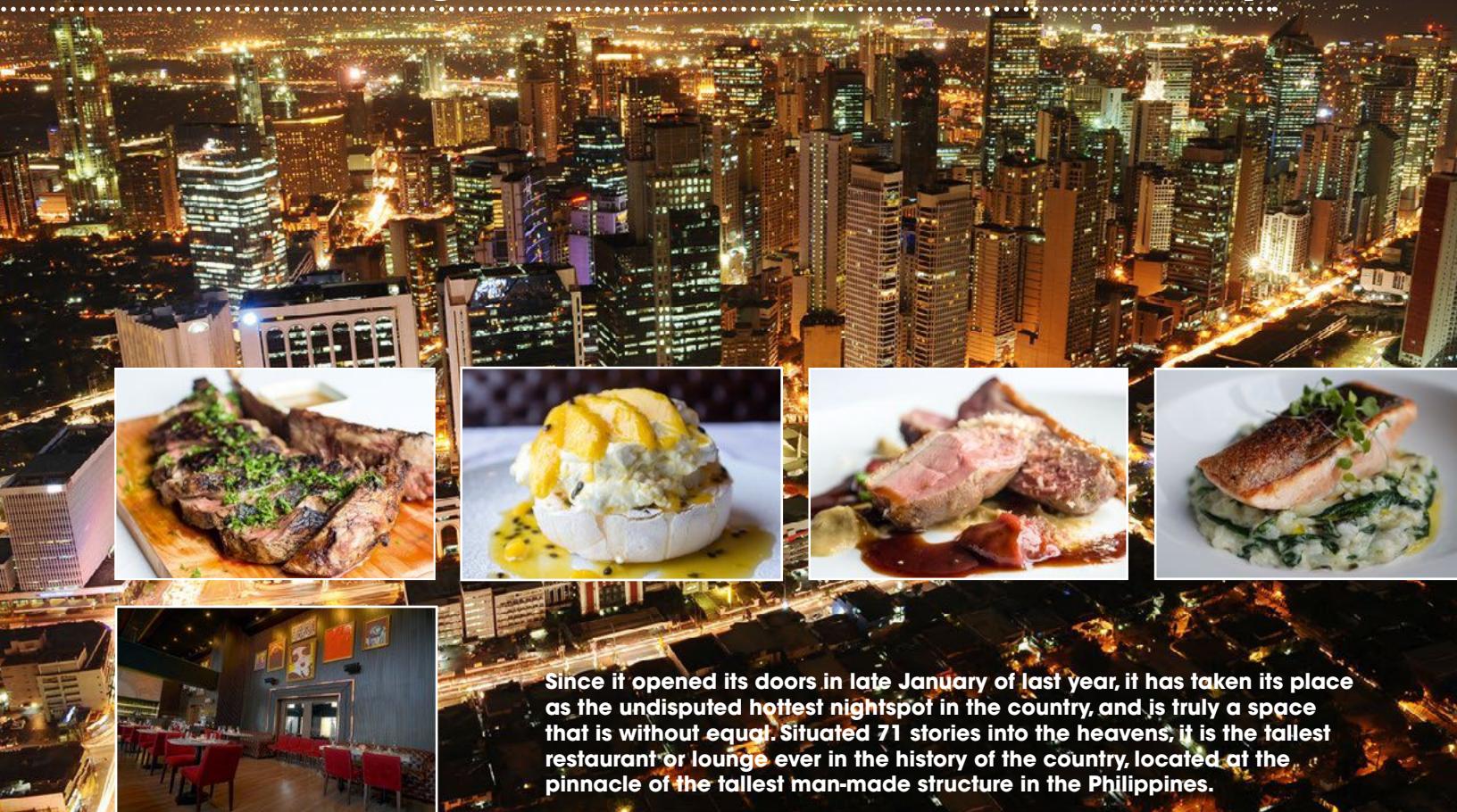
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To know more, log on to www.bebesballoons.com or call 400-7168. Bebe's Balloons is located at 710A Ballesteros Street, Brgy. New Zaniga, Mandaluyong City.



Reinventing Fine Dining at 71 Gramercy



Since it opened its doors in late January of last year, it has taken its place as the undisputed hottest nightspot in the country, and is truly a space that is without equal. Situated 71 stories into the heavens, it is the tallest restaurant or lounge ever in the history of the country, located at the pinnacle of the tallest man-made structure in the Philippines.

One of Makati's best kept foodie secrets can be found on the seventy first floor of Kalayaan and Salamanca, headed by Chef Carlo Miguel of Sala, Draft, and Opus fame. The Dining Room at 71 Gramercy has a masculine vibe, dark walls, leather sofas, and bright modernist artwork, reminiscent of a contemporary New York-style old boys club.

The Dining Room opens its doors at 6 o'clock, allowing guests to dine outside and take in the view of Metro Manila sunset. Gentleman's Hour starts from 5:30PM to 9:30PM every weekday, allowing for guests to make the most of their buy one, take one cocktails while big groups can take advantage of 30 percent off selected bottles of alcohol.

The Dining Room is also where guests can enjoy a bottle of their favorite red or white wine with their meal before heading out to the Lounge to party come 11:00PM. Start dinner with Foie Gras Napoleon, made with seared foie gras on top caramelized apple and crisp pastry with aged balsamic. The appetizer looks like a little work of edible art, the taste playing on savory and sweet, with the balsamic cutting through the strong opposing flavors.

One of Chef Carlo's signature dishes is the Prawn Salad, something he's always kept on his menus for over 13 years. Perfectly grilled, juicy prawns are served atop a colorful Guimaras mango salsa, finished off with sweet vanilla dressing, one can

describe each mouthful as a taste of the Philippine islands.

As far as mains are concerned, a favorite at 71 Gramercy is the Duck Breast, using organic honey-glazed U.S. duck breast with an onion and thyme purée, rhubarb, and hazelnut. The meat is served a blushing pink, the rich taste of game merrily complimenting the rhubarb compote with extra texture from the crushed hazelnuts.

Another popular entrée on the menu is the Dining Room's Salmon Fillet. A thick cut of salmon with crisp skin and pink, tender meat is the crowning jewel on the plate on a bed of warm spinach, and artichoke risotto.

For big groups, Chef Carlo recommends the U.S. Angus Choice Grade Tomahawk, grain-fed and aged before being grilled over wood chips to seal in all its juice. Simply seasoned with sea salt and freshly cracked peppercorns, the giant steak in bone is finished with café de Paris butter and served with a choice of frités, creamed spinach or green salad.

Ending the night on a sweet note, one must try the Pavlova—a showstopper with a meringue base piled high with ice cream, whipped cream, fresh mango slices, and passion fruit. As for the chocoholics, it would be hard to say no to #LEGIT Chocolate Cake made with five textures and

made with three kinds of chocolate, with the melted center caving in, while thick, molten fudge gathering in the middle, surrounded by vanilla cream.

This August, Chef Carlo Miguel plans on taking The Dining Room in a different direction, slowly transitioning itself from casual dining to fine dining, creating continental dishes while using local, homegrown ingredients. This will also be the very first of his restaurants that he plans on working in the kitchen daily, reaching out to suppliers and working with farmers to create plates with international flair yet still honoring the indigenous ingredients found all over the Philippines. This farm to table fine dining concept will be the first of its kind in the Philippines, a challenge that only someone with Chef Carlo's talent can even try to endeavor.



BUILDING MY OWN PC

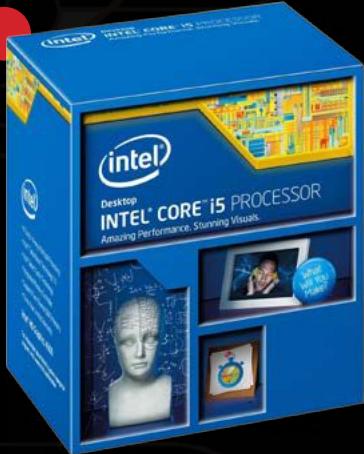
Ascension is sweet

Words by Chris Noel Hidalgo

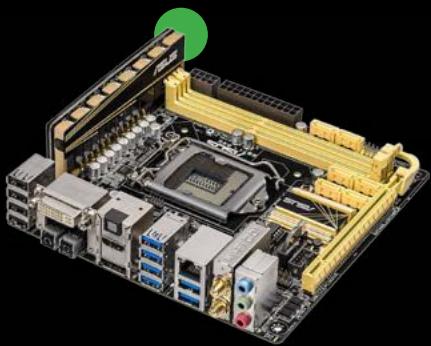
When it comes to gaming, a custom built PC just can't be beat. While it seems daunting to purchase parts individually and play thousand-Pesos-Lego with them, it's really simpler than you think. Armed with manual printouts, online videos, and feedback PC building fora, you should be able to build one from scratch in a couple of hours. Hey, if a klutz such as yours truly could do it, you could do it too.

The Parts

• **CPU:** Intel Core i5-4460 3.2GHz quad-core processor. Nothing too fancy here; just a solid, quad-core performer on the Haswell Refresh microarchitecture. It has a locked multiplier so no overclocking, and it has no Hyperthreading technology as that's only present in dual-core Core i3 and quad-core Core i7 processors. Still, I won't complain since I got it brand new for pretty cheap.



• **Motherboard:** Asus Z87I-Pro. A mini-ITX board packed to the brim with knickknacks making it comparable to some bigger mATX mobos. It has the Z87 chipset and an LGA 1150 socket which means that I could upgrade to the more powerful Core i7 K Series processor and get stable overclocks. It also has dual-channel RAM slots supporting up to 8GB each; one PCIE 3.0 x16 slot; six SATA 6GB/s ports supporting RAID 0, 1, 5, 10; LAN, Bluetooth, and Wi-Fi support; tons of USB ports; and some premium Asus features like USB BIOS Flashback, AI Suite 3, Asus 5x Protection, and UEFI BIOS EZ mode.



• **Graphics Card:** Zotac GeForce GTX 760 2GB with Zalman VF3000 cooler. Even though it's a couple generations old, the GTX 760's still able to hold its own against even the latest AAA titles. It's able to run Grand Theft Auto V and The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt on high to ultra settings at pretty much a stable 60fps on 1080p. I got this card customized with a Zalman VF3000 heatsink for even cooler temps.



• **RAM:** G.Skill RipjawsX 8GB DDR3 1333 CL9. It's RAM. It's 8GB. It works. 'Nuff said.



• **Storage:** WD Caviar Blue 1TB. Like the RAM, it's 1TB, it works, and it's from a trusted brand.

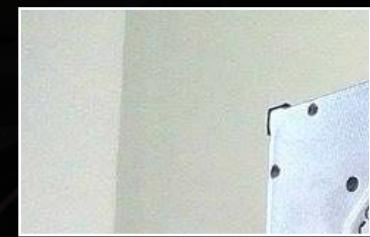


• **PSU:** Seasonic S12II 520W 80+ Bronze. Never skimp out on power supplies as if it goes, there's a huge chance it will take the rest of the computer with it. If you do have to cheap out, though, the Seasonic S12II 80+ Bronze series are your best bet. Seasonic's a reputable name and the 80+ Bronze rating means your rig will be gobbling up power more efficiently. I went with the 520W model as that's more than enough for the entire build. Had I gone with a more power hungry card, a bigger wattage would've been necessary.



• **Chassis:** Thermaltake Core V1. A really functional mini-ITX case that won't frustrate you like other small form factor enclosures. It has two levels—one for the PSU and cable management, and one for the rest of the system—to make working in a tiny space that much easier. The front, sides, back, and bottom all have mesh ventilation, and the top is windowed so you can easily admire your handiwork. It has two USB 3.0 ports, input and output audio jacks, and an included 200mm fan upfront and two 80mm fan slots at the back for airflow.





- Optional Parts:

- AVR/UPS: APC Back UPS CI (BX650LI-MS) 650va. This AVR and UPS rolled into one's for safety against power outages and electric surges. Like we experience those here in the country.

- CPU Cooler: Deepcool Gammaxx 300. The stock fan and heatsink that the processor comes in is all fine and dandy, but if you want a (literally) cooler CPU that lasts longer, an aftermarket cooler is necessary. The Gammaxx 300 doesn't cost a lot and attaches just like a stock cooler so installation is easy-peasy.

- Case Fans: Deepcool XFan 80mm. I got two of these as exhausts out the back of the case. They're incredible cheap at less than PHP 100 each, but only come with Molex connectors so they're going to run loudly at 100-percent all the time.



The Build

1. Installing the CPU. Lift the retention arm, line up the notches, gently drop the CPU in, and lock the arm back.

2. Installing the RAM. Push down the retention clips, line up the notches, and then push down on each side of the stick. The clips should pop back on when the RAM's properly seated.

3. Installing the CPU Cooler. Screw in the included mounts, being careful not to smear the preapplied thermal paste on the heat sink. Line the push pins up with the holes around the CPU socket, and push them in diagonally.

4. Installing the PSU. Nothing too complicated. Just make sure the power socket and button is facing outside and that the fan can properly take in air.

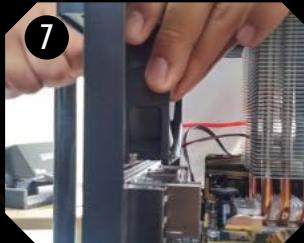
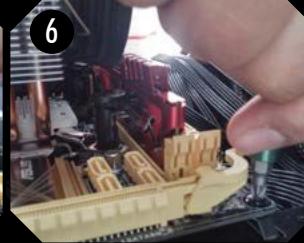
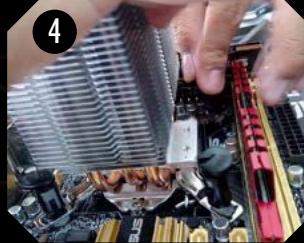
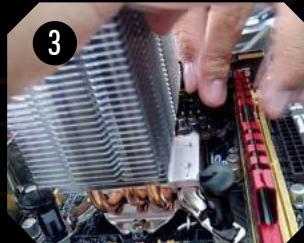
5. Prepping the Case. Pop in the motherboard I/O shield in relation to how the motherboard should be installed. The shield's edges are particularly sharp so be careful. Install the motherboard standoffs if need be.

6. Installing the motherboard. Slide the motherboard into the case at a diagonal angle, making sure the I/O ports are lined up with the holes in the shield, and that the screw holes are lined up with the standoffs. Screw everything in a diagonal fashion as to not stress the board too much.

7. Install the case fans and storage. Just screw them in and you're good to go!

8. Plug everything in. Now comes the tough part: plugging all those data and power cables on to the motherboard while maintaining clutter to a minimum. Tie down all cables that run the same length with a zip tie and hide them somewhere that won't restrict airflow—in the case of this... case, is at the bottom layer.

9. Installing the graphics card. Coup de grace time. Push down the retention clip at the side, line up the card with the PCIE slot, push it down, then screw it in. Plug in the PCIE power cables and it's good to go.



Things to remember

- Yes, I changed the case into a bigger Thermaltake Versa H25. Why? My graphics card's girth was too fat for the Core V1. DO YOUR RESEARCH AND ENSURE THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE COMPATIBLE LEST YOU WANT TO FEEL DISAPPOINTMENT.
- Ground yourself by touching a metal surface (your PSU or case) before touching sensitive components.
- If a part's particularly hard to install, you're probably doing it wrong.



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SUPERMALLS

Picking a piece

Words by Ren Alcantara

If you're in the market for a pistol to carry on a daily basis, you're going to be spoiled for choice. This is an extremely deep field, with more than a few players vying for your cash. There are a few things you have to remember before cashing out for that latest single stack nine, or ultra-super-snubby subcompact in .50 AE. Far be it from us to change your mind if you have it set on just one piece, but sit back and read on. You might just want to lengthen your shortlist.



You don't have to go hammerless

Striker-fired pistols are wonderful. Apart from all the amazing striker-fired options available in the market today, there are some distinct advantages to not having an external hammer to your handgun, not the least of which is a snag-free draw. This doesn't mean that hammerless/striker-fired is the only way to go, or that having a hammer on your weapon is going to cause it to catch on every scrap of fabric between you and the bad guy. While it's true that the hammer is one other thing that can snag, but if you practice, have decent gear, and don't spend every waking hour worrying about your gun snagging at the draw, you should be okay. Really, there are other things about carrying you have to worry about. Don't let the presence of a hammer keep you from carrying your 1911. Holster up and carry on!

Small but terrible

There is an inverse relationship between how easy a pistol is to carry and how pleasant it is to shoot. Smaller, lighter pistols offer less resistance to the effects of recoil, so the shooter feels the recoil impulse significantly more than a larger, heavier pistol. I've fired some pistols in .380 ACP that were a lot less docile than my full-sized 1911 in 9mm Para. It's simple physics, and there's really no way to cheat that. Apart from the whole inertia thing, smaller pistols also have less to grab on to. It's hard enough trying to keep a good grip on a pistol that's essentially fighting its way out of your hands, and if that pistol isn't even giving your hands enough to hold on to, whether because the grip is too thin, or too short, there might be some problems.

Go too large and/or too heavy, you'll be miserable carrying it, and might even be tempted to leave the weapon at home, defeating the reason behind the whole exercise. There's nobody who can really say whether you should err on the side of too heavy, as nobody knows yourself better than yourself. It's something you have to try out yourself, though I'd personally much rather have a gun than not, particularly when I need it.



The Caliber debate

There is no way my saying anything about this topic will sway the tide one way or another, nor do I hope to convince you of anything other than your own beliefs. I do hope, though, that you consider looking at both the evidence at hand, and the testimonials of those more qualified than I. Within reasonable limits, and with reputable, modern defensive ammunition, ammo isn't as big a factor as you might imagine. Modern defensive hollowpoints perform admirably, and pack enough power and penetration to get the job done.

The advantage of the smaller, lighter ammo is the relative ease at which follow-up shots can be made. The importance of being able to make fast, accurate follow-up shots is, as far as can be told, greater than the "stopping power" of a single round. Can't decide what you want more? Get 'em all and be done with it! For science!

Carry conditions (Skip if you hate the 1911)

I know of at least a few people who carry single action firearms with the hammer down on an empty chamber, assuming they have both A) the presence of mind to draw, rack, aim, and fire under duress to perform, and B) the skill to do the same. When pressed, they admit to carrying this way because cocked and locked (Condition 1) feels unsafe. While Condition 3 (hammer down on an empty chamber, with a full mag inserted), has a much lower chance of going off unintended, it does have the consequence of having a much lower chance of going off when you want it to as well. Getting the gun ready might not seem like that difficult a task, but when you consider that a determined attacker can cover 21 feet in the 1.5 seconds it takes the average person to draw, aim, and fire a pistol, and that extra step starts looking



like a lot of effort. Don't even get us started on the dangers of carrying in Condition 2, or heaven forbid, Condition 0.

While these really mostly apply to 1911-style pistols, generally speaking, you're trying to keep the best balance between making the gun difficult to fire, and ready to act.

Revolvers are your friends

Revolvers are amazingly reliable weapons, though they have admittedly fallen out of favor against semi-automatic pistols. Don't be put-off by the revolver's older technology. They can take more of a beating, have fewer moving parts, are mechanically (and operationally) simpler, and throw lead just as well as their more modern counterparts. Revolvers can accept various kinds of ammunition, with some notable examples capable of loading both pistol cartridges and shotshells.

As with any skill, you're going to have to put some hours into using a revolver. Some processes, such as reloading, can take a little more practice on a wheel gun than a semi-auto. This is a critical part of using any handgun, so if you go down this road, make sure you do it right.



Words by Jose Alvarez

Developer: Rocksteady Studios

Publisher: Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment
Platforms: PC, PS4, Xbox One, OS X, Linux, SteamOS

Bob Kane and Bill Finger created Batman in 1939, where he made his debut in Detective Comics #27. While Batman has been prevalent on print, television, and film, Batman has also gotten his fair share of video games. The first video game starring Batman came out in 1986 in Europe, and made his way to the North American market in 1988 on the Apple II, Commodore 64, and MS-DOS. While many of the early Batman video games were two-dimensional side scrollers, Batman video games have only become a hit with the release of Arkham Asylum in 2009, which spawned a series of successful open-world action-adventure games.

Arkham Knight is set in Gotham City, a year after the Joker died in the previous game in the series, *Arkham City*. Crime in the city is practically nonexistent. However, several of Batman's surviving enemies, such as Harley Quinn, Two-Face, and the Penguin are all plotting to kill Batman. The Scarecrow, another enemy of Batman, plants bombs and poison all over Gotham and forces all the civilians to evacuate the city. This leaves only the criminals and the Gotham City Police Department, headed by Commissioner Gordon, to fight the criminals alongside Batman and Robin. On top of this, Batman also has to deal with a threat called the Arkham Knight.

One of the best parts about the game is that you have access to the entire city from the start, allowing the player to complete side missions as well as the main storyline. Several gadgets from



previous titles return, including batarangs, the grapnel gun, the line launcher and the countering system. Some new gadgets in the game are the Disruptor rifle, which can be used against enemy weapons and turrets, and can even create traps for enemies that try to arm themselves. The rifle can also be used to tag vehicles for Batman to track around the city. The remote-controlled batarang allows Batman to survey unexplored areas, and the voice synthesizer allows the player to imitate other voices to draw enemies into a trap. Batman can also glide around the city using his cape, and can even use batarangs, the line launcher, and the grapnel gun while gliding. The grapnel gun allows the player to switch directions and can be fired to chain grappling moves together, which is the quickest way to go if you're going from building to building.

The combat system is fluid, but the enemies are far more dangerous—enemies now have shields, shock batons, and guns, which makes stealth a far better way of getting around. Batman can

easily dodge melee attacks and counter with his own, and can even disarm enemies with melee weapons. As an additional challenge, there are also enemy medics which heal and protect enemies in an electrified field. Enemies wielding guns and tasers take longer to defeat. The enemy AI is also smarter—they can detect if Batman is in a vent, as well as using devices such as land mines, drones, and can even find Batman if he uses Detective Vision for a prolonged period of time. In addition, some enemies can even block Detective Vision.

Batman can also turn enemy drones against their allies using the Remote Hacking Device, which results in plenty of fun if done properly. If you're particularly careful and your hand-eye coordination is on point, you can utilize Batman's Fear Takedown, which allows the player to take up to five enemies out at once if he remains undetected. Batman can also use the environment to his advantage while fighting enemies. In addition, you can also play as Batman's allies in Dual Play, such as Robin,

Catwoman and Nightwing, and you can even utilize them in double-team takedowns.

You gain experience from combat as in previous titles, and can unlock gadget abilities, combat moves, and increase your health. The Batmobile is now a drivable vehicle and can be summoned to the player's location, and can also be upgraded. Some enemies will run off at the very sight of the Batmobile, and if enemies attack Batman while in the Batmobile, it can defend itself with tasers. You can also complete challenges while in the Batmobile, such as timed races, and switch between Pursuit and Battle modes. Battle mode turns the Batmobile into a tank-like vehicle. You can have even more fun if you have the drone virus upgrade, which forces enemy vehicles to attack one another.

One of my favorite additions to this game is Batman going back to his detective roots—the player can solve murder cases by locating clues and identifying the perpetrator, and use detective tools such as the Tissue Scanner to scan a victim's skin, bone and muscle for clues. If you complete the game, you can enter a New Game Plus, which allows you to keep all your weapons, experience, abilities, and Riddler collectables that you can find throughout the game (if you have lots of time, there are 243 Riddler challenges to complete). If you're a fan of DLC, you can play as Harley Quinn, Red Hood, and even play in a Scarecrow-dominated Gotham City.

While the console versions of the games were well-received, the PC version did have some technical issues regarding frame rates. Several players reported their frame rates dipping despite having high-end graphics cards such as the Nvidia GeForce GTX 970, and it was pulled from the Steam Store to work on performance issues. The game will also be released on SteamOS, Linux, and OS X in the fall.

If you're a huge Batman fan, there's plenty to do in Arkham Knight and the compelling story and gameplay will have you playing the game for hours on end (and even longer if you decide to purchase the DLC). Overall, the game is a solid effort despite the issues in the PC version.

One of the best parts about the game is that you have access to the entire city from the start, allowing the player to complete side missions as well as the main storyline.



Eldritch Horror

Words by Ren Alcantara

The works of HP Lovecraft have spawned what is practically its own genre of games. Cthulhu and all his elder god friends have, in the short span of time they've existed in the literary world, have given us countless references, and a whole slew of Eldritch horror fiction and, thankfully, board games. One of our most recent discoveries in the genre is Eldritch Horror, a game right in the vein of Lovecraftian fiction.

Eldritch Horror is a game for 1 to 8 players, with a single run going on for anything from 1 to 5 hours, depending on the number of players. It's a pretty involved title, but one that does the mythos justice, as long as you have the patience for it. It is cooperative, so you and your friends all work together to fight the board.

The game sees you as one of a number of paranormal investigators trying to solve mysteries that will reveal more about one of the game's elder gods. Complete three of the mysteries before you run out of time, and you win, otherwise, the elder god awakens, adding another thing to your already busy to-do list, or possibly ending the world outright. As you can probably tell, the odds are stacked against you. The game is not kind to the player, and the investigators can lose in quite a number of ways.

As far as gameplay goes, it's quite a deep RPG type title, with short missions to accomplish in order to develop your character's inventory, stats or skills, slow the progress of doom, or put the main antagonist to rest. There are quite a few in-game mechanics, so this might not be the game I'd pick to introduce newbies to the world of tabletop.

To start the game, players choose a character from the pool of available ones. These characters each bring a specific set of skills to the table, as well as abilities baked right into their character sheet. Some allow the player to be better at combat, or more able to discover important clues towards solving the main mysteries, or let you help your teammates out in various ways. Each player has a set health and sanity level, which once lost, renders the player dead.

The main villain of the game is then chosen. This is one of Lovecraft's elder gods, each one bent on ending humanity in various nasty ways. Each elder god messes with the



players in their own way. Some cause players to lose turns, others spawn creatures to beat the players down, and others still just run the clock down to end the game. One thing is constant through all these gods: they punish poor strategy and teamwork.

Gameplay is far from straightforward, but that's what makes the game shine. There's just so much going on. Apart from solving the main missions, none of which are easy, every turn has the board throw random Mythos cards, each of which brings a particular set of problems to the table. From gates that spawn more evil creatures, and themselves push your game closer to doom

(and a long drawn-out loss), general bad effects such as losing health or sanity, giving players ailments, and loads of other negative effects.

Players are not totally without aid. The game provides certain buffs, in the form of spells, blessings, or stat boosts, to improve the characters abilities. Items are also available from an in-game market. Weapons, damage prevention items, and services such as healing, are all available for purchase. There are even extremely powerful Artifacts that can only be obtained through the successful completion of rather difficult challenges, but



are worth all the risk. Challenges, including combat and mission ones, are resolved with die rolls. Stats tell you how many D6s you can roll, and a challenge is won if any of your dice come up 5 or 6.

The board itself is a world map, with travel lines, and locations, each of which can spawn clues or events. Major locations such as cities also spawn the aforementioned gates, as well as monsters. Travel is a major game element, and if you aren't very careful about where you go and what you do, you'll soon be left behind, trying to play catchup while the mysteries and challenges all run away from you.

If the game sounds complicated, that's because it is. This is by no means a simple game, and more than once it has driven our group of hardcore gamers to tap out and play *Splendor* instead. This is where the game shines though. It can get so bitterly difficult, with the strategy so complicated, that you can't help but want to beat the damn game. There are exactly no other games that dare you to beat it, and make it so hard but rewarding to do so, that even though we've lost more times than we've won, we still have fun, and keep wanting to come back. Is *Eldritch Horror* a game for everyone? Absolutely not. But the lucky few who can play and enjoy it are never going to want to swap it out of their regular rotation of titles.



SUPER MARIO BROS.

Words by Jose Alvarez

If you grew up in the 1980s and 1990s, chances are you played the game *Super Mario Bros.* on the Nintendo Entertainment System (NES). Players would spend endless hours trying to beat all 32 levels (eight worlds of four stages), and it is one of the best-selling games of all time. The game proved so popular that it turned Nintendo into a multi-billion dollar company, and helped save the North American video game market from the crash of 1983, which was reeling from an oversaturated market and lack of quality control.



Everyone's favorite plumber brothers, Mario and Luigi, were the brainchild of long-time Nintendo employee Shigeru Miyamoto, who has served as a programmer, artist, game designer, producer, and executive during his four (and counting) decades at Nintendo. Although Nintendo is best known for their video games, they were in existence for almost 100 years prior to the creation of Mario and Luigi, selling card games and toys. Mario first appeared in the 1981 arcade game *Donkey Kong* as Jumpman, where he had to save Pauline (possibly an early inspiration for Princess Peach) from Donkey Kong by jumping over barrels that Donkey Kong threw at him. The character was renamed Mario after Mario Segale, the landlord of the office of Nintendo of America, who allegedly interrupted a company meeting demanding overdue rent. Mario and Luigi first appeared together in 1983's *Mario Bros.*, where two players would compete for a high score by defeating enemies by jumping on the blocks that they were walking on, and then jumping on them again when they were on their backs. 1985's *Super Mario Bros.* was also included as a pack-in game for the NES alongside *Duck Hunt* and not only won over the Japanese market, but the North American one as well.

By the late 1980s, Nintendo was known throughout the world and their products reached almost every corner of the globe. Mario and Luigi were the franchise characters for Nintendo, who were always trying to rescue Princess Peach from Bowser/King Koopa. Minor characters included Toad, the loyal attendant of Princess Peach, and the seven sons of King Koopa, also known as the Koopalings. Other characters such as Yoshi, Wario, Waluigi and Birdo came in later games in the Mario franchise.

The impact of *Super Mario Bros.* spawned games in other genres as well. *Mario Kart*, a racing game featuring Mario characters, is also its own series and also incorporates combat between racers, such as throwing shells at your opponents or making them lose control with banana peels. Sports games such as *Mario Tennis*, *Mario Golf*, *Mario Baseball*, and *Super Mario Strikers* also came out on Nintendows based off of the same game on the NES. *Super Mario Party* series has up to four players playing various party games with Mario characters. Mario and Luigi

also appeared in role-playing games such as *Super Mario RPG* for the Super Nintendo and the *Paper Mario* series on the Game Boy handheld consoles.

There were also puzzle games, such as *Dr. Mario*, where you had to match colors up with one another in a *Tetris*-style environment to get points. There were even educational games for kids, such as *Mario is Missing* and *Mario's Time Machine*, which taught kids about history. *Mario Teaches Typing* was another educational game made for PC and taught kids how to type, and it was one of the few Mario games to not be on a Nintendo game console (there was also a Mario game on the Phillips CD-i, *Hotel Mario*, which had permission from Nintendo to use some of their franchises). *Mario Paint* was also released on the Super Nintendo as an art game. In addition to drawing, players could also create music and animation featuring Mario characters.

Mario and Luigi have also appeared outside of the Mario franchise as well, crossing into games such as *Dance Dance Revolution* and even appearing in a crossover game with his one-time rival, Sonic the Hedgehog (who represented Sega, Nintendo's biggest rival in the 1990s) in *Mario and Sonic at the Olympic Games*.

The Mario franchise wasn't just confined to games—there were TV shows, comic books, and movies as well. Mario and Luigi were brought to life in live-action shows such as 1989's *The Super Mario Bros. Super Show!*, which starred former professional wrestler Lou Albano as Mario, and 1990's *The Adventures of Super Mario Bros. 3*, which was also a plot element in the 1989 film *The Wizard*, and was revealed in the movie despite not being released in North America yet.

The 1993 live-action film *Super Mario Bros.* starred English actor Bob Hoskins as Mario, comedian John Leguizamo as Luigi, actor Dennis Hopper as King Koopa. Long-time voice actor Frank Welker provided the voices of Yoshi and the Goombas.

Other actors that were attached to the film at one point or another during production included big-name stars such as Arnold Schwarzenegger, Michael Keaton, Tom Hanks, and Danny DeVito. A 1990 poll indicated that Mario and Luigi had more brand recognition than one of the most recognizable cartoon characters of all time, Disney's official mascot Mickey Mouse.

The Mario franchise of games has had extremely positive reception to this very day, with every game in the main franchise regularly scoring in the 80s and 90s in Metacritic and GameRankings reviews. The highest-rated Mario game is 2007's *Super Mario Galaxy* on the Nintendo Wii, which had a 97 rating on both scoring systems. As the franchise turns 30, it continues to be popular with gamers young and old.



2015 Vision Petron call for entries

Vision Petron, the award-winning national student art competition of industry leader Petron Corporation, is celebrating 15 years of fueling creativity with the theme *Lakbay Kasiyahan: Our Journey of Happiness*.

As a jubilant milestone we want to resolve what makes us chuckle and even laugh in uproar. More than the surveys and studies, Filipinos have proven time and again we are one of the happiest people on earth. Probably being rooted on our abiding faith, we always look at the bright side and hope for the best while still managing to smile at any of life's given situation. With *Lakbay Kasiyahan* as this year's theme, Vision Petron dwells deeper into this comfort of our known cheerful character. How science blames our exposure to abundant sunlight, basking us with vitamin D translates to the lightness of our being or could it be we live in the freest form of government? No matter where our national character emanates, happiness can be best experienced with a loved one, family and friends, or joining in our community's festivals and festivities.

Now open for entries, the 2015 Vision Petron competition is open to all talented students, aged 16 to 28, enrolled in a regular university or college

course, or in tutorial art, photography or video class. Entries may be submitted in four categories, namely: painting (oil and water-based media), photography, t-shirt art design, and video-making.

And, to mark its 15th year, Vision Petron is offering larger prizes for the winners, as follows: For the Painting (oil/acrylic, water-based media) category, six grand prize winners of PHP 70,000 each; six runners-up with PHP 30,000 each; and eighteen semi-finalists with PHP 5,000 each. For Photography, six grand prize winners will receive PHP 50,000 each, and six runners-up with PHP 25,000 each. In T-shirt Art Design, there will be three grand prize winners of PHP 50,000 each, and nine semi-finalists with PHP 5,000 each. The Video-making category will have three grand prize winners of PHP 50,000 each. All grand prize winners will also receive trophies and plaques made by National Artist Napoleon V. Abueva, while runners-up will receive trophies. Criteria for judging will focus on content and concept - 40-percent, originality - 30-percent, and technical execution - 30-percent.

To download the application form and get more details about the contest mechanics, go to the website www.visionpetron.com, or visit

the Vision Petron Facebook page. Deadline for submission of entries is August 20, 2015 at Petron bulk plants nationwide or August 28, 2015 at the Vision Petron Project Secretariat located at Studio 5 Designs, 28 Paseo de Roxas corner Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, Makati City.



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Kasiyahan**
Our Journey of Happiness

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OF FUELING CREATIVITY
Painting • Photography • T-shirt Art Design • Video-Making

Xeleb launches flagship mobile game, Anne Galing

Xeleb, a subsidiary of Xurpas Inc., is a company that seeks to create, cultivate, and lead the celebrity mobile games segment in the Philippines.

The local mobile game maker partnered with one of the most influential celebrities in the country, Anne Curtis, to launch their flagship game, *Anne Galing*. The gameplay of *Anne Galing* is simple. As a Match-3 game, what you have to do is make rows of at least three gems of the same kind—think gameplay of a certain candy-themed game—to earn points and advance to another level. The app, which is now available free for download on Google Play Store, was designed by Anne Curtis herself.

Apart from gem-matching, the game also allows players to shop for digital clothes, build a wardrobe, and personalize Anne's in-game outfits.

Xeleb's principal shareholders include Anne Curtis, Isabelle Daza, Kim Atienza, and Erwan Heussaff. Meanwhile, a Kim Atienza mobile game is also said to be in the works.



"We view Anne, Isabelle, Kim and Erwan as tentpole properties. We'll build a constantly growing portfolio of games based on their celebrity brand," said Raymond Racaza,

president and chief operating officer of Xurpas. "Xeleb will own the celebrity games space, we're just getting started," Raymond Racaza concluded.

Energizer Night Race 2015 gathers 3,000 Filipinos to raise PHP 1 million for Bantay Bata 163

On June 27, the Energizer Night Race 2015 gathered a total of 3,000 runners at the Filinvest City in Alabang to raise money for the children of Bantay Bata 163.

Every 3-kilometer loop added PHP 100 to Bantay Bata 163's medical treatment funds; the first open loop run gathered PHP 1,000,000 worth of donations.

"Ever since the Energizer Night Race took form, we saw it as more than being just a simple fun run. Above all, we used this platform to practice an important Energizer mantra, which is to share positivenergy. Ultimately, that is our primary goal," said Vincent Lizo, Energizer Philippines' business director.

Clarissa Ocampo, managing director of Bantay Bata further stressed the significance of the partnership. "We are looking forward to engage in a joint venture with partners who have the same mission with Bantay Bata," Ocampo said. "That's why we partnered with Energizer—we want to light up lives. What we really need for

the organization is to have partners who will be committed to help our children in ways that will affect them on a longer term," added Ocampo.

The runners' times were monitored through radio frequency identification (RFID). This tracked every 3k loop a runner makes. To make their runs convenient, kilometer markers in the race route were also provided. Likewise, a battery meter lights up every time a runner finishes a 3-kilometer run. This battery meter also keeps tabs of all the 3-kilometer runs a participant makes—until it reaches the one million target. An LED-display was placed onstage and in the start



and finish arcs to monitor each runners' progress.

After the race, the participants gathered and were entertained by music acts Yeng Constantino, Up Dharma Down, and Itchyworms.

Smart to hold country's biggest Clash of Clans tourney

Smart Communications, Inc. will be holding the country's largest Clash of Clans (COC) tournament, the Philippine Clash 2015, with over PHP 2-million worth of prizes—currently the largest prize pool in a local mobile gaming competition.

Smart will be partnering with the country's biggest names in gaming, including the Philippine eSports Organization, Inquirer eSports, SM Cyberzone, and the Philippine Clash of Clans Battleground—the biggest online community of COC players in the country—in holding the event.

"The COC phenomenon has hit the Philippines big time, with Filipinos from all walks of life bonding together to form clans and compete every chance they get, on the train, while stuck in traffic, or when they are just relaxing at home. It is just about time we put together the country's biggest COC tournament and provide a venue for players and fans alike to showcase their skills in the spirit of friendly competition," said Melissa Limcaoco, head of Smart's innovation and product development group.

"This is very much a part of our push to elevate gaming into a form of competitive sports, extolling good values like discipline and teamwork in a fun-filled arena," she added.



Smart prepaid subscribers are able to access COC using the Entertainment Bundle which gives them 300MB worth of data for mobile games, YouTube, and other online activities, 30 minutes of Calls to Smart and Talk 'N Text, and 150 texts to all networks valid for three days, all for only PHP 50.

Open to all Smart Prepaid, Postpaid and Smart Bro subscribers, the competition will feature several elimination legs in major cities throughout the archipelago, including Baguio, Batangas, Cebu, Davao, and Metro Manila before culminating in one big final clash in October.

Microsoft opens two Philippine stores



Brazilian model Fabio Ide (left) with Karrie Ilagan, Microsoft Philippines country GM.

Microsoft has opened two principal stores in the country last June 27 and July 4 at the Cyberzone areas of SM North EDSA Annex and SM Megamall. Gracing the stores' ribbon-cutting ceremonies were a roster of Microsoft

executives which included Karrie Ilagan, country general manager; Milette Rosal, marketing head for mobile devices sales; and Paul Foo, head of channel operations for Pan Asia. The two shops are stocked with various Microsoft

Lumia smartphones, accessories, and other company products like the Office 365 Personal, HP Stream 7 and 8 tablets, and HP Pavilion X2 laptop. Exclusive deals and promos awaited guests, and a Lumia 1520, HP Stream 8, and a free subscription to Office 365 were also given to lucky raffle winners. The new Lumia 640 XL as well as the Lumia 540 Dual SIM were the stores' best sellers during opening day.

According to Milette Rosal, the store openings are important to the company and its patrons. For one, it represents a broader business model which allows the company to directly interact with more people. On the other hand, these stores bring the Lumia devices closer to their customers.

As part of their #LiveConnected campaign, Microsoft likewise demonstrated how users can stay connected across various devices. This functionality allows continued productivity on-the-go using Windows and other devices. The opening of the two Microsoft stores arrive just in time for the much anticipated release of the company's latest operating system, Windows 10.

Office 2016 for Mac brings upgraded suite

Microsoft recently announced that Office 2016 for Mac is now available with the latest versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and OneNote, in 139 countries, including the Philippines.

An official source said users who already use Office on a PC or iPad will find themselves "right at home" with the familiar ribbon interface and task panes, and the integration of Mac capabilities such as Full Screen view, Multi-Touch gestures, and full Retina display support for sharper and more vibrant-looking documents.

Microsoft boasts the upgrade of five of its top applications, including Word for Mac which has the new Design tab that easily applies designer-quality layouts, colors and fonts throughout the document. Here, users can collaborate on the same document simultaneously and use threaded

comments to have a conversation right next to the corresponding text.

Excel for Mac helps users visualize information by recommending charts best suited for their data. Its familiar keyboard shortcuts, autocomplete and an improved formula builder, as well as new PivotTable Slicers, help create and filter large volumes of data and discover patterns.

PowerPoint for Mac sports an improved Presenter View that gives users full control over presenting slides, speaker notes, and a timer on the Mac screen, together with the new animation pane that has the latest set of slide transitions for better design and fine-tune animations.

Microsoft also guarantees the easier management of emails, calendars, contacts, and tasks with

the new Outlook for Mac that has push mail support and an improved conversation view that automatically organizes inboxes around threaded conversations.

Lastly, OneNote for Mac, the newest addition to Office, allows users to capture ideas in digital notebooks and access them on any device, as well as find things quickly with the OneNote search engine that tracks tags, indexes typed notes and recognizes text in images and handwritten notes.

Since Office for Mac is cloud-connected, users are able to quickly access and edit documents they've recently used on other devices, and invite other people to collaborate on them through new built-in document sharing tools—without fear of losing content or incompatibility with Office on PCs, tablets, phones and online.

To get the newest version of Office for Mac today, Microsoft encourage users to avail of an Office 365 subscription, which includes the rights and access to use Office applications on Mac, Windows, iOS and Android devices, along with additional value in OneDrive and Skype.



Microsoft

Sun postpaid subscriber base grows double-digits; launches “Choose Better” Campaign

Sun just became the country's fastest growing postpaid brand after posting a double-digit 18-percent year-over-year growth through this year's first quarter. Its rival network, Globe Telecom, reportedly only grew 9-percent year-over-year over the same period.

“Sun's stellar performance in the postpaid segment has been hugely driven by feature-packed plans that give subscribers unbeatable value for their money,” said Sun vice president Joel Lumanlan.

“We are very confident that Sun will sustain this momentum of double-digit growth and outpace its direct competitor as we roll out highly competitive products that appeal to the wise spender in every Filipino. Sun's strategy has always been simple: empower Filipinos with a much better choice for their mobile services,” he added.

To keep their momentum rolling, Sun has launched the “Choose Better” campaign which aims to give customers the best value for their

money. The campaign's poster child is the Sun Best Value Plan 450, an entry-level postpaid offer which comes with a free Android phone, a monthly allowance of unlimited Sun-to-Sun calls and texts; 20 hours of mobile browsing; free Facebook; and 250 texts to other networks.

Additionally, Sun is offering broadband users the Non Stop Surf Plan 450 which provides nonstop surfing, additional 1GB for heavy streaming, and another 1GB music streaming through Spinnr.

Sun has also improved some of its prepaid offers including Super Loaded Call and Text Unlimited 100 that now features unlimited calls to Sun, Smart and Talk 'N Text, unlimited texts to all networks, and 100MB data for 7 days; and Non Stop Surf 25 which now includes 50MB of data for light browsing, 25MB for downloads, and 300MB of Spinnr streaming for one day.



Helping Sun carry the campaign's message across is new brand ambassador Drew Arellano. “One of the reasons why I'm happy and proud that I'm now with the Sun family is because of the value-rich benefits Sun provides its subscribers—that's what we want to push. It's also about associating myself with a very good brand, a trusted brand.”

Haier Asia set to boost presence and market reach in PH

Haier Asia Co., LTD, a leader in innovative home appliance products and services, is all set to take the Asian market by storm as it beefs up its game plan.

With President and CEO Yoshiaki Ito at its helm, the team is determined to leave its footprints in the region by carrying out changes within the company which will bring forth exciting new things for its customers to look forward to. “It is our aim to create a brand that our customers in Asia will appreciate and love,” said Ito.

“Haier Asia brings in to play the technology and talent fostered in its home country, Japan, and combine it with the group's resources around the world,” Ito explained. “By bringing together our best assets—the people and the skills, we are set to deliver products and services that will establish Haier as a household name, making it an essential part of every Asian family.”

Reintroducing itself in the Asian market, Haier aims to establish a name worth the trust and loyalty of its customers.

“We have prepared new channel strategies aimed at generating growth in B2B and B2G market. These strategies include on-line shopping for small appliance categories while observing the

growth of sales of smart phones among younger generations,” Ito added. The new Haier is more than ready to take a step ahead, and the appliance and electronic industry can expect great things from this leading Asian brand.

Haier appoints Nobuhito Hayashi as President and CEO in the Philippines

Newly appointed Haier Philippines president and CEO Nobuhito

Hayashi makes it his personal goal to win his customers' loyalty and visions the company to be the most trusted brand of appliance in the country.

On top of a strong game plan, Haier has also recently acquired Sanyo, rebranding it as part of its transformation efforts, and launched the brand Aqua. Fairly new to the PH market, building better



awareness for Haier is a task that Hayashi never takes lightly. “Sanyo is a very well-known brand in the Philippines and we appreciate that greatly, but as CEO of the company, it is my job to usher in the new DNA, which is Haier,” he said.

“I want to be able to expand the business and make everything double in three years,” he concluded.

Entertainment Everywhere: iflix announces partnership with Smart and PLDT



Great news PLDT Home and Smart subscribers. A new and convenient entertainment platform is coming your way! iflix, the newest subscription video-on-demand (SVOD) content provider is set to shake things up in the internet TV scene with its partnership with two of the country's biggest multimedia networks, PLDT Home and Smart.

The official Philippine launch of iflix coincides the company's recent acquisition of topline content deals with giant Hollywood studios such as The Walt Disney Company, Twentieth Century Fox Television Distribution (Fox), BBC Worldwide (BBC), and Warner Bros. International Television Distribution (Warner Bros.).

Basically, this means that on top of TV serial titles and updated catalog of various international content available on iflix, much-loved shows like Sherlock, Doctor Who, Homeland, and The Big Bang Theory can now

be accessed as part of its growing library.

As for movies, iflix has beefed up its Hollywood selection with the addition of action blockbusters like Star Trek, Batman Begins, and Green Lantern, among thousands of other choices.

PLDT Home and Smart welcome the addition of iflix as part of its ever-expanding entertainment ensemble. "This is literally entertainment everywhere. With all of these titles bannered under PLDT Home and Smart's power-packed lineup of reliable internet services for families and individuals, your choice of entertainment device deserves its own star at the Hollywood Walk of Fame," said PLDT EVP and consumer business group head Ariel Fermin.

Meanwhile, iflix chairman Patrick Grove enthused over this exclusive partnership move with PLDT and Smart. He said, "In PLDT we have found a

like-minded partner who is committed to changing the way entertainment content is consumed in the region. We look forward to building an extraordinary business in the Philippines together."

To gain access to "entertainment everywhere," register an account via www.netflix.com and instantly enjoy a 30-day free trial of the service. Once the free trial expires, PLDT Home and Smart users will be able to subscribe to the PHP 99 per month package through the iflix website.

For PLDT Home subscribers, iflix is available via TVolution Trio Plan 1599 inclusive of a TVolution kit, unlimited DSL, and unlimited access to iflix. Existing users of PLDT Home DSL and PLDT Home Ultra can get iflix as an add-on option on top of their monthly fees for only PHP 99 per month, while it comes free with PLDT Home Fibre and PLDT Home Telpad plans.

On the other hand, Smart subscribers may now bring entertainment anywhere for PHP 99 a month, charged to their prepaid loads on top of their postpaid accounts. No credit card required.

Also, iflix will soon be launched in the following countries: the United States, Hong Kong, Seoul, Shanghai, Thailand, and Tokyo. The iflix app is also downloadable via Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. To know more on how to subscribe to iflix with your PLDT Home or Smart Account, log on to www.pldthome.com or www.smart.com.ph.

SanDisk ships two billion microSD cards in a decade



SanDisk Corporation announced that it has managed to ship more than two billion microSD cards since it began commercial shipments a decade ago. In total, SanDisk's two billion microSD shipments amount to 11,103 billion megabytes of data.

Initially called the TransFlash, the microSD card was pioneered by SanDisk in 2004 before being publicly released in 2005. It was able to reduce the size of removable flash storage by 75-percent and has been a major driver to the growth of mobile photography, with 75-percent of today's smartphone models containing microSD slots.

"Demand for storage never stops growing. We will soon see smartphones with multiple-aperture lenses, phones capable of shooting UltraHD video and applications for taking and

viewing virtual reality environments," said Shuki Nir, senior vice president, corporate marketing and general manager for retail at SanDisk.

"MicroSD memory cards will also be instrumental in the growth of the Internet of Things by lowering the barrier to experimentation. Two billion is just the beginning, and we look forward to contributing to future technologies enabled by the microSD format."

SanDisk's latest microSDXC now offers up to 200GB of capacity, a 6,250x increase from the 32MB microSDs ten years ago. It's the successor to the 128GB SanDisk Ultra UHS-I memory card which features vertically stacked memory dies for more storage space in the same device footprint.

HOOQ inks content partnership with Disney, Miramax, and DreamWorks

Over 30,000 hours of Hollywood, regional, and local content can now be accessed by Filipinos with HOOQ. The video-on-demand (VOD) service has just announced its recent tie up with Disney, DreamWorks Classic Media, and Miramax as new content partners.

This newest acquisition will give HOOQ's extensive catalog of local and foreign movies and TV series a significant boost. Starting this month, HOOQ will be introducing a substantial number of key titles to its catalog like non-stop action thrills with blockbuster hits like *Captain America: The First Avenger* and *Thor*.

Also, HOOQ users can freely choose from titles provided by existing content partners Warner Bros. and Sony Pictures Entertainment,

alongside the Philippines' own studios like ABS-CBN/Star Cinema, Regal Entertainment, Viva Communications, and GMA as well as acclaimed independent filmmakers Quantum Films and Captive Media.

For just PHP 199 a month, users have access to unlimited local and international content, which can be viewed on five Internet-enabled devices. Users subscribed to the service can also share the HOOQ experience with their family or friends, as they can stream simultaneously on two devices (on just one subscription). HOOQ also has a feature that allows download of up to five titles at a time, so you can take your entertainment anywhere you please without the need for an internet connection.



Purchase apps from the Windows Phone Store with Globe

Globe Telecom has recently announced the expansion of its Direct Carrier Billing (DCB) service which now include customers with smartphones running on the Windows operating system (OS).

The Windows Mobile Store direct carrier billing service gives Microsoft Lumia and Windows phone users an easy, convenient, and secure channel to download and purchase their choice of applications and in-app content without the need for a credit card. Instead, Globe Postpaid, Prepaid, and TM customers can now charge their Windows Mobile Store purchases straight to their postpaid bill or prepaid load.

To activate the service, users must first set up their device's location to determine which Windows Mobile Store catalog and payment options will be made available on their device. The app will automatically recognize Globe as the mobile phone's carrier and will put it as one of the payment methods available.

Once phone setup is complete, users can login using a Microsoft account (formerly Windows



Live ID), accept the Windows Mobile Store Terms of Use and Privacy Agreement, open the Windows Mobile Store, select the app they wish

to purchase, await purchase verification, and confirm their mobile phone account or Globe account as their chosen method of payment.



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Petron Value Card: Special Bonus Points



Petron Corporation, the country's leading oil company, is giving its loyal Petron Value Card holders even more reasons to smile with the introduction of special bonus points. Normally, fueling up with Petron Blaze 100 Euro 4, Petron XCS, Petron Xtra Advance, Petron Super Xtra Gasoline, Petron Turbo Diesel or Petron Diesel Max allows you to earn one value point for every PHP250-worth of fuel spend. You can also earn value points when you purchase Petron engine oils and Petron Gasul from participating service stations.

FREQUENT VISIT BONUS POINTS

Now, frequent visits to Petron allow you to earn points faster. How? On every fifth visit-day, your total accumulated purchases give you bonus points as follows:

Accumulated Purchase	Bonus Points
PHP 5,000 and above	25
PHP 4,000 to PHP 4,999	20
PHP 3,000 to PHP 3,999	15
PHP 2,000 to PHP 2,999	10
PHP 1,000 to PHP 1,999	5
PHP 500 to PHP 999	3

BIRTHDAY BONUS POINTS

Petron Value Card holders get a special treat when they fuel up within five days of their birthday, with the following bonus points:

Purchase Amount	Bonus Points
PHP 1,000 and above	30
PHP 500 to PHP 999	15
PHP 100 to PHP 499	5

Be sure to register your Petron Value Card and start earning these special bonus points. Text HELP to 0917-5671111 for assistance.

PARTNER ESTABLISHMENTS

Beyond your fuel needs, your Petron Value Card also gives you special benefits at partner establishments. Just show your card to enjoy as much as 50-percent discount from a wide range of dining partners, travel and leisure, health and wellness, retail, and automotive establishments.

Keep track of special offers at partner establishments through the free Petron Value Card app on both iOS and Android smartphones.

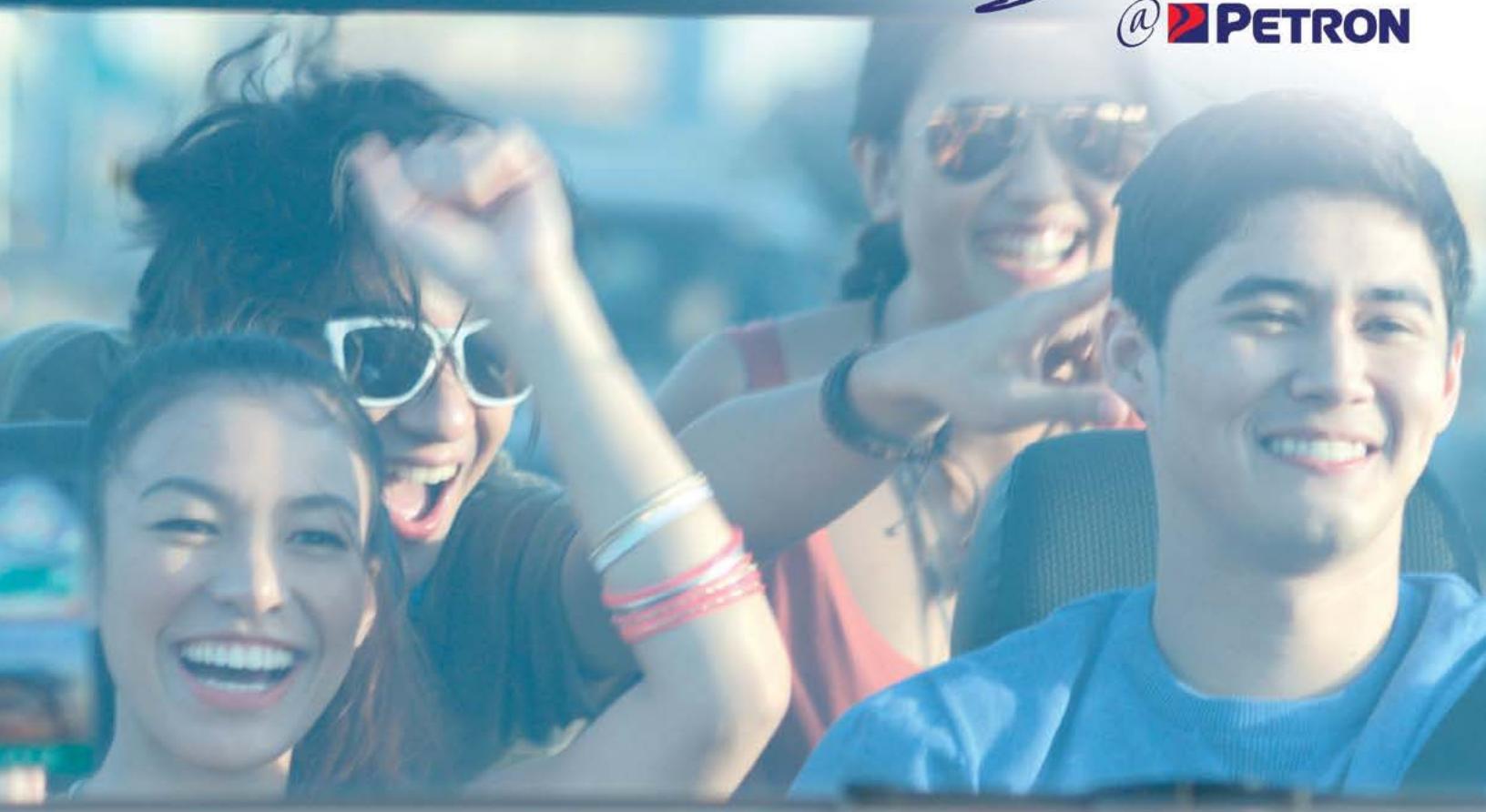
PETRON VALUE CARD APP

You need to register to activate the app, after which you can get real-time updates on your Value Points, plus the details of your last two transactions. The Station Finder helps you locate the Petron stations near you, while the Promos button brings up the mechanics of the latest promos so you're sure to never miss out on free goodies. The Service button provides access to towing services, personal accident insurance, weather information, LTO registration assistance, etc.

Don't miss out on all these exciting rewards and benefits. Sign up and get your Petron Value Card at participating Petron service stations nationwide. Always present your Petron Value Card every time you gas up to keep earning points. And when you fuel up, pay with Peso points, save your cash!



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Honda's exclusive technology that automatically turns off the engine when stationary after 3 seconds; Machine will automatically turn on again once gas lever is rotated. This technology helps prevent fuel wastage.

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*Available in CBS/ISS variant only

